

THE TIMES

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Jubilant Clinton cruises home

New team prepared as votes are being counted

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL CLINTON was last night heading for a comfortable victory over Bob Dole that would make him the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt to win a second term in the White House and the youngest president to win two elections.

Early exit polls gave him a seven-point lead over Mr Dole and while that figure was highly tentative, Mr Clinton was so confident that he was already preparing a top-level staff reshuffle.

He was pressing Erskine Bowles, a friend who left the White House for the private sector earlier this year, to become his new chief of staff in place of Leon Panetta, who wants to return to California. He also called Warren Christopher, the 71-year-old Secretary of State, to Arkansas amid speculation that he, too, wanted to return to his home in California.

Mr Clinton was greeted by a small but enthusiastic crowd when he reached his home base of Little Rock, Arkansas, at 5.00 am after 72 hours of virtually non-stop campaigning at the end of what he described as the last campaign he would ever run. But by late last night, 30,000 supporters were expected to turn out to celebrate with the President.

Vice-President Al Gore and their families in front of the Old Statehouse where Mr Clinton delivered his 1992 victory speech. He will return to Washington today.

Mr Dole completed his final campaign blitz — a 96-hour set of endurance covering



Local hero: a triumphant homecoming for President Clinton in Little Rock, Arkansas, last night at the end of what he described as the last campaign of his career

10,534 miles and 20 states — at a 3.00 am rally in front of Harry Truman's statue in Independence, Missouri. Truman pulled off the greatest upset in American presidential history, and Mr Dole hoarsely but defiantly declared to 2,500 diehard supporters that "what was true for Harry Truman in 1948 will be true for Bob Dole and Jack Kemp in 1996".

The 73-year-old Republican flew on to vote in Russell, Kansas, where the whole town turned out to greet him, before returning to hear his fate in Washington last night.

Mr Dole, who first sought the presidency 16 years ago, resigned his Senate seat last

June to focus full time on the last campaign of a 45-year political career. He has no life outside politics and it was not clear what he would do in the future, but he sounded upbeat. "Whether you win or lose, you always have some things you might have done. But my view was, is and will be, you look ahead, you don't look back. We've given our all, but with a full heart."

Ross Perot finished his campaign on Monday night by paying \$2 million for two hours of prime television time during which he compared Bill and Hillary Clinton to Bonnie and Clyde, saying they would face serious criminal charges during a second term.

"We are headed towards a second Watergate and a constitutional crisis," he said.

Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, is nearing the end of his investigations of the Clintons' Arkansas financial dealings and charges of a White House cover-up. He is also investigating the dismissal of the White House travel office in 1993 and the White House's highly improper acquisition of 900 FBI files on Republican officials.

Mr Perot's claims that a second Clinton administration would be debilitated by scandal were given weight by reports in several newspapers yesterday that James Riady, an Indonesian billionaire who

has given huge and possibly illegal donations to the Democratic party, had discussed trade policy and personal business deals with the President during 15 to 20 visits to the White House over the past four years.

America was also electing a new Congress. 11 state governors and dozens of state legislatures yesterday. The Democrats needed a net gain of three seats from 34 contests to reclaim the Senate, but their chances looked slim.

They were more hopeful of recapturing the House of Representatives, where they needed a net gain of 18 seats from 435 contests. If the Republicans held both houses it would

be the first time they had controlled two consecutive Congresses since 1930.

The two parties spent an estimated \$800 million on the presidential campaign, making it the costliest ever, but it was also one of the least memorable of modern times. One commentator described it as a race between a "curmudgeon and a chimera", and yesterday's turnout was expected to reflect the general lack of excitement.

Curtis Gans, director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, predicted that little more than half the eligible voters would cast their ballots. "High turnout in elections can be driven by anger,"

he said. "Sustaining participation rests on hope. And this election offers neither."

As in the past, the first declarations came from tiny communities in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. At Hart's Location, 21 residents filed into voting booths in the dining room of the Notchland Inn. It took four minutes. The final count — including absentee votes — was Dole 13, Clinton 12, Perot 4, and libertarian Harry Browne 2. Across the mountains, in Dixville Notch, the ritual was repeated: Dole 18, Clinton 8, Perot 1, Browne 1.

Campaign trail, pages 14, 15
Leading article, page 19

Dons' vote puts £20m gift for Oxford in jeopardy

DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WAFIC SAID, the Middle Eastern businessman, is reconsidering his decision to donate £20 million towards establishing a new business school in the heart of Oxford. His decision comes after the university's dons in Congregation yesterday voted against making a sports ground available for the school.

After the vote, Mr Said said he would consult Oxford's Vice-Chancellor and his trustees before making a decision. "I am naturally disappointed. It has been the clear view of the university leadership that a business school will only succeed in Oxford if it is central to the university's life. I agree with them."

"The vote calls into question Congregation's commitment to developing a world-class business school. In the light of this I shall obviously need to consider my benefaction."

Yesterday's Congregation, the academic parliament, refused to back the development by 259 votes to 214 after a series of dons expressed their reservations about Mr Said's motives.

The proposal was lost even though Dr Peter North, the Vice-Chancellor, repeatedly insisted that many other donations, not just for the business school, would hinge on any decision made. He said he had recently been approached by another substantial benefactor who intended to help the university to reach the target of £40 million needed to build the school.

Academics also condemned the university for keeping the plans secret before presenting them with a virtual fait accompli which would mean reversing a 1963 decision to keep the proposed Mansfield Road site as a sports ground for ever.

The debate, page 4

Yeltsin conscious after heart surgery

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS breathed a collective sigh of relief yesterday after President Yeltsin came through a gruelling seven-hour open heart operation, which surgeons described as a complete success.

After months of speculation about the future of the ailing Kremlin leader, a team of 12 Russian doctors began their operation early yesterday morning to bypass Mr Yeltsin's blocked arteries, the cause of three heart seizures in the past 18 months.

Michael DeBakey, the pioneering American heart surgeon, who acted as an adviser in the operation, predicted that Mr Yeltsin, 65, would be able to resume his responsibilities

today or tomorrow.

The surgeon, who looked haggard and pale after his ordeal at the Moscow Cardiological Centre, said Mr Yeltsin's heart had been stopped for more than an hour while new veins were inserted into the organ. "I was trying to forget that it was the President of Russia," he said.

Before the operation, a radio message from Mr Yeltsin was broadcast to reassure his countrymen. He said: "I believe that I will soon be able to work as before — with full strength."

Russia's recent and Dr Stotland, page 11



England captain

Philip de Glanville, the Bath centre, who was appointed England rugby captain. De Glanville, 28, a marketing consultant, has been capped 16 times. He succeeds Will Carling, whose place in the team is now in doubt after 46 internationals. Pages 3, 48

Pupils expelled

Twelve pupils are being expelled from The Ridings School in Halifax and a further 23 suspended. The school is to reopen this morning. Pages 4, 18, 19

Cathedral reform

English cathedral deans and chapters are to be made fully accountable to a new council chaired by a man or woman appointed by the diocesan bishop. Page 7

Video violence

The Home Secretary has asked the British Board of Film Classification for its plans to reduce video violence in response to Frances Lawrence's campaign. Page 5

Plastic door in heritage area slams in face of the planners

BY PAUL WILKINSON AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE brown plastic door of 43 St John's Street, Worsworth, in the Derbyshire Dales, will be allowed to stand after an 180,000 two-year legal battle that ended in the High Court yesterday.

Claims by English Heritage that the door was unsuitable in a conservation area and was setting a dangerous precedent were rejected by Deputy Judge Moriarty, QC. An appeal may be considered.

The door's owner, Patricia Harman, 53, who lives in the 18th-century mid-terrace, three-storey house, said: "Stand on the other side of the street and you would not take a blind bit of notice of it."

But, she says, English Heritage and the planners in her home town of Worsworth

have so far spent about £80,000 trying to remove her mock Georgian door in simulated mahogany — about twice the value of her home.

Yesterday Judge Moriarty supported an Environment Department inspector's decision last summer that Mrs Harman could keep the door, despite having installed it without planning permission. "It was two years after I put it in before anyone noticed," she said, toasting the decision.

English Heritage argued that massive amounts of public money had been invested in the architectural fabric of the town and the door represented a vital test case. "The concern of the council was that if you have one rather outrageous door and then another and another, you lose the lot," Charles Mynors of English Heritage said.

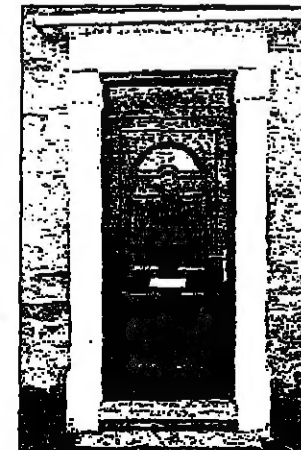
English Heritage must pay its own costs of £10,000 and an undisclosed "less substantial" sum for the Department of the Environment.

Mrs Harman, who runs her own business making women's lingerie, moved into the house 10 years ago and spent about £12,000 modernising it. Conservationists insist that her front door must be wood to harmonise with other improvements in the market town which have so far cost about £1 million. More stark in the streetscape is the white plastic double glazing in the windows of Mrs Harman's

stone-built house, but no one has objected to that. It is only close to that a serious observer can see that the dark hardwood grain is simulated.

Worsworth town centre was designated a conservation area in 1970 and permission was required before replacement doors and windows could be installed in any of 400 properties in the area.

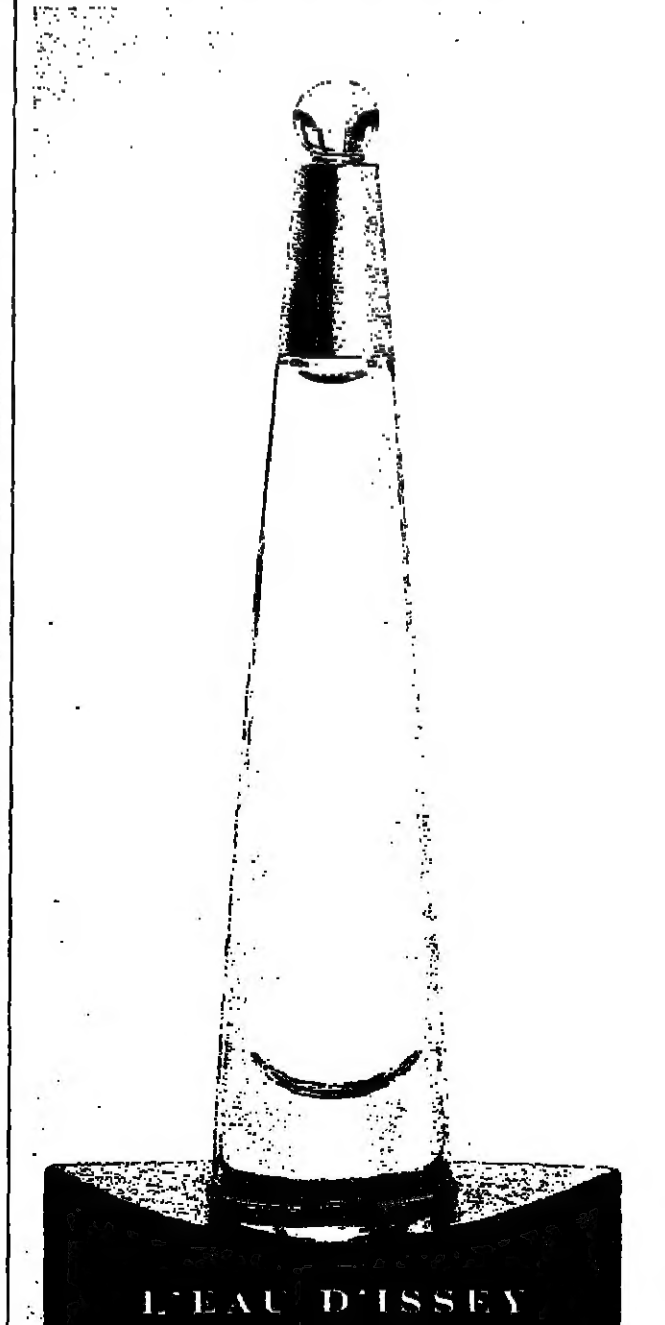
The street running south towards Derby from the town's market place is no area of outstanding beauty. It is a hotchpotch of vernacular 18th and 19th-century styles. Mrs Harman said: "They had hoped Worsworth (population 5,000) might become a tourist attraction when they did it up, but it is just an ordinary market town."



Mock mahogany door: an open and shut case



"Here's our bill for English Heritage — tell them we accept plastic"



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The case for tougher school discipline begins here

NOBODY likes a tell-tale. With every parliamentary session, Madam Speaker grows more to resemble a kindergarten teacher driven to her wits' end. Now, to her despair, the kiddies have taken to telling on each other.

On a Monday, one of them tells Miss that someone else has been using Commons notepaper for unofficial business. On a Tuesday, another tells her that someone has used OHMS envelopes for party correspondence. Betty Boothroyd's patience grows more thin.

"Miss! Miss!" said Labour's Jim Dowd (Lewisham W)

yesterday. (Well, that's what young Jim meant: what he said was "On a point of order, Madam Speaker.") He complained that Tory ministers visited his constituency without telling him.

Wearily, Miss Boothroyd reminded MPs that it is a convention at Westminster that MPs inform each other when visiting each other's constituencies. Miss! Miss! Miss! ... this time it was the Tories' Graham Riddick (Colne Valley). The gangly child told Miss Boothroyd that it was Labour MPs who failed to notify others of their visits. He accused Labour's



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

leader and deputy leader of this. Madam Speaker kicked at her footstool with elegant shoe.

Miss! Who was this ginger-mopped infant on the Tory benches? It was Ian Bruce (Dorset S). And what did little Ian want? To be excused? To complain that an older girl next to him, Elaine (Dame Kellert-Bowman, 72), had shoved him with her elbow? No, Ian wanted Miss to know

that Tony (Blair, 43) was talking too much. "He used 342 words in his questions to the Prime Minister last Tuesday, and 380 words on Thursday," whined Ian. "After 150 words, could you cut him off before his third question?"

Barely controlling her temper, Miss told Ian that she was perfectly able to find out for herself how much Tony was talking, and besides it wasn't just Tony. All the boys

and girls talked too much. But Mr Bruce had a point. Yesterday the Labour leader talked himself into a cocked hat. The PM sat on it.

It was one John Major's best performances. After a tetchy start to the new session last week, he seemed to have resolved to keep his cool. Mr Blair kicked off with a rather floridly worded attack on what he said was a National Health Service "in crisis". Mr Major rejected this calmly. Mr Blair grew wordier.

Mr Major told him he was using health as a political football. Mr Blair then worked himself up to the

day's quotable quote, describing the Health Secretary's reported £1 billion extra grant as "a sticking plaster to take the Tories through to the election". Initially cool, Mr Major then stepped up the indignation, concluding in a grand rant whose finale was to accuse Mr Blair of "kindergarten soundbites".

As a kindergarten soundbite, this soundbite was a good deal more effective than Mr Blair's own kindergarten soundbite. Mr Major is creating a vigorous secondary market in soundbite derivatives: soundbites attacking other people's use of

soundbites. He sat down to an enormous cheer. His success yesterday reflected more than a well-handled set of responses to some predictable questions. Beneath the surface mendacity of our House of Commons there is an underlying honesty. MPs on all sides know the NHS has problems, but they do not really think it is "in crisis", and it shows.

Had the subject yesterday been the BSE fiasco, Mr Blair would have believed his own lines, and Mr Major would not have believed his. This too would have shown. British politicians are not good liars, though they try.

Judges are paid too little, says Bingham

Unless judges are properly paid, the ranks of the judiciary will fill with "second best" candidates and put the independence of the judiciary at risk. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, told the Judicial Studies Board. Salaries range from £116,062 a year for Appeal Court judges to £62,018 for district judges.

Refugee rapist

Ali Noor, 42, from Islington, north London, who had applied for political asylum in Britain after fleeing Somalia seven years ago, was jailed for 18 years for raping two pensioners aged 84 and 76 whom he followed home from their shopping trips.

Policeman jailed

Peter Wallace, 28, a policeman at Gatwick Airport, was jailed for five years for causing death by careless driving after drinking at least seven pints. He lost control of his car in south London on July 15, crushing Mary Woods, 28, a pedestrian, against a wall.

Divorce lesson

Divorcing couples may be required to attend American-style "parent education" sessions under initiatives being examined by the Lord Chancellor's Department. The idea is being explored within the framework of government divorce reforms.

Drug discovery

Patients may be able to take fewer pills after researchers in the US found that a long-acting asthma drug bound to an "anchor" in the lung which kept it working around the clock. The finding may make other long-acting drugs possible.

MoD fraud case

Fifteen Ministry of Defence civil servants were dismissed yesterday after being found guilty of falsely claiming to have bought travel season tickets with official interest-free loans averaging £500. They have to repay the money through their salaries.

Radical policies to end the failure of care in community

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government admitted yesterday that the "care in the community" policy had failed and it will announce a radical shake-up of services for the mentally ill in the new year.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is to publish a Green Paper in January, which includes a proposal to set up new mental health authorities, in an attempt to end a series of disasters where the mentally ill have been abandoned in the community. Legislation would be drawn

up as a priority. Labour and the Government are both committed to action to tackle the growing crisis.

The move has been prompted by the Prime Minister, who ordered a study into whether new measures were needed to care for psychiatric patients after a series of attacks by mentally ill people this year. It also comes after a damaging Royal College of Psychiatrists report that blamed 13 of 39 killings by psychiatric patients on a failure to supervise them

after release. John Major and Mr Dorrell accept there is a need for "asylum" for the most disturbed patients, effectively reversing a policy the Government has held for more than ten years. In 1986 ministers announced a programme to gradually close big psychiatric institutions in favour of helping people to live in the community.

Mr Dorrell argues that while the Government should continue closing the large hospitals, it should ensure that more smaller hospitals are built with 24-hour staffing, on the lines of nursing homes. He believes that care-in-the-community packages are inappropriate for everyone and a minority would need long-term asylum.

But the Health Secretary believes many of the problems blamed on releasing patients have stemmed from lack of co-ordination between health authorities and local councils, who share responsibility for the mentally ill.

The Green Paper will examine new mechanisms to ensure that these people do not continue to fall through the net, complementing the building of smaller units for psychiatric patients. It will propose the main options that will then be widely consulted on.

□ Setting up new mental



Stephen Dorrell yesterday. He accepts the need for "asylum" for the most disturbed patients

health authorities that would be accountable to the regions or the Secretary of State. They would hold their own budgets to ensure that money was not siphoned off to other areas.

□ Giving health authorities and local councils statutory powers to set up their own organisations that would be accountable to them jointly. Mr Dorrell privately backs this "compromise" proposal because it would not require such a radical reorganisation and be less costly.

□ Under a third option, there

would be no separate organisation but local councils and health authorities would be given more facilities and mechanisms for better communication and co-ordination. Mr Dorrell regards this as the weakest option and does not believe it goes far enough.

Mr Dorrell is anxious that there is no over-reaction to the failure of care in the community by hospitalising all psychiatric patients. He argues that only about 10 per cent are at risk to themselves or to the community.

Prison inspector attacks regime for young offenders

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE regime for hundreds of inmates at Feltham Young Offender institution has been condemned by the Chief Inspector of Prisons after a nine-day inspection.

Sir David Ramsbotham, was so alarmed that he immediately contacted to Director-General of the Prison Service to express his concern. He is understood to have left Richard Tilt in no doubt of his unhappiness.

Sir David and his team are critical of the number of prisoners who were "idle" and concerned at the difficulties staff faced in providing education classes. On one day of the inspection last week it was found that 816 inmates were in the various wings and units because there was not enough work or education for them and because there were not enough staff to cope with the numbers.

Overall, his inspection team was critical at the paucity of the regime provided for 906 remand and convicted young offenders held in the sprawling complex in west London. He is also understood to believe that there are not enough staff.

Inspectors were critical of the wide catchment areas from which Feltham must take its inmates. The crisis facing the Prison Service from the pressure of rising numbers was highlighted last week when young offenders were

locked out of Onley in Rugby, Warwickshire, and Glen Parva, Leicestershire, because they were full. Instead the youngsters had to be accommodated in Feltham.

A prison source described Feltham as a little more than a big "transit camp" which this year will see 43,000 remand or convicted young offenders pass through it. On one day during the inspection, 81 people were released from Feltham but later on the same day it accepted a further 100 inmates.

Sir David's team, which include officials from the social services, education and probation inspectorates, found that the sex offender treatment wing was working well. They also acknowledged improvements at Feltham since a previous inspection in 1993 and praised the efforts of the governor and staff and staff.

Sir David, who took up his job as Chief Inspector of Prisons almost a year ago, is expected to outline his concerns at conditions in Feltham to Ann Widdecombe, the Minister for Prisons, and to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

He is arguing in Whitehall for the creation of the post of Director of Young Offenders within the prison service whose responsibility would be to guarantee enough resources for the whole young offender estate and their supervision.

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De Glanville slips naturally into high-profile role of sporting ambassador

Rugby picks new captain from the Carling mould

By ADRIAN LEE AND JOANNA BALE

THERE was a time when captaincy of the England rugby team meant little more than cauliflower ears and a few beers in the bar with the opposition. But in an era of commercialism and lucrative personal contracts, it has become one of the most high profile positions in sport.

It appeared yesterday that the outgoing captain, Will Carling, is to be relegated to the replacements' bench by a rising star from the same mould. Phil de Glanville is the second in the new breed of England skippers: good looking, well spoken and highly educated, he can expect to follow Carling in making his fortune from the game.

Carling, Aston Martin driver and confidante of Diana, Princess of Wales, took the job into new realms. He became a millionaire on the back of it

and the signs are that his successor has all the credentials to achieve the same celebrity status.

Oxford-educated de Glanville, nicknamed "Hollywood" because of his film star looks, has done everything in his power to live down such an image. However, seven breaks to his nose have done nothing to tarnish his glamour-boy image and have proved that when it comes to going in where it hurts, he has few peers.

He maintains that the broken noses are the worst aspect of playing international rugby, but the most alarming moment of his life occurred on the rugby field. "My most frightening experience was being shot at when I was at an RAF base in Cyprus," he said. "Terrorists launched a rocket attack on the building we were

in." He no doubt brought to the situation the calm, positive approach that he is known for, both on the rugby field and in business.

There is no doubt his personal life has been less turbulent than Carling's well documented marital break-up. De Glanville, 28, married his long-time sweetheart, Yolanda Keverne, in July at King's College, Cambridge, where her father is a don. With her short blonde hair and elfin face, it has been said that she bears a striking resemblance to Julia Carling. Ms Keverne — she uses her maiden name — is a mathematics teacher at a school in Bath, while her husband works part-time as a marketing consultant for a computer company, Druid Systems of Chertsey, Surrey.

With his appointment as captain, de Glanville can expect to see his earnings soar. Carling has his own company, Insights, and runs leadership seminars for businessmen and women. He also makes after-dinner speeches and is paid handsomely for personal appearances, interviews and product promotions, including television commercials for the meat substitute Quorn. His income is estimated to be £500,000 a year, all stemming from shrewd marketing of the England captaincy.

De Glanville, who currently relaxes playing other sports and with occasional nights out at a local club, will now face more strenuous demands on his time. He has already expressed a desire to move in more exalted circles, citing Diana, Princess of Wales, as the person he would most like at his birthday party. Carling's similar taste led to the end of his marriage.

Some of Carling's rugby colleagues claimed that fame went to his head and that he developed an arrogant, pretentious streak. De Glanville, despite his rise to the top of his



Phil de Glanville and his wife, Yolanda, at their home in Bath. They were married in Cambridge in July this year

profession, is said to retain down-to-earth qualities which, allied to his quietly confident manner, made him an obvious choice as skipper.

Peter Harvey, de Glanville's former headmaster at Bryanston School in Dorset, which he left with three A levels, said: "He was entirely amiable, very reliable and strong in character. We are all delighted for him. He is still a very modest and extremely pleasant chap who comes back to see us regularly."

The consensus is that he is not the sort to brand England's rugby hierarchy "57 old farts", which Carling did so notoriously. He was fired as

captain as a result last year, only to be reinstated after a public outcry.

But it was Carling's alleged "trysts" with the Princess that caused the loudest rumblings of discontent. Mrs Carling, a television presenter who continues to use her married name for work, blamed her husband's well publicised friendship for their marriage problems. Carling always insisted that the relationship was innocent and the Princess was not named in the Carlings' subsequent divorce.

The marriage, which began in July 1994 with a glossy wedding day spread in the pages of *Hello!* magazine,

ended in a court at Guildford, Surrey. Mrs Carling, 30, the daughter of a Northamptonshire accountant and previously a girlfriend of the rock musician Eric Clapton, brought the action claiming that the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

Mrs Carling appeared on Channel 4's *Big Breakfast* dressed in surgical clothes to mimic the Princess, who had been filmed watching an operation at Harefield Hospital, west London. She copied the Princess's heavy eye make-up and blonde fringe peeping from under her surgical cap. The Press Complaints Commission ruled in January that

Mrs Carling had forfeited her right to privacy over the break-up of her marriage when she willingly co-operated with the media in a series of interviews.

She has found a new romance with Rob Stinger, who runs Epic records, and is known in the industry as a high-flier. She hosts Carlton TV's *Capital Woman*. Carling is said to be enjoying a romance with Ali Coockayne, whose sister, Michelle, is married to the former England football captain Gary Lineker. He is no longer in touch with the Princess.

Leading role, page 48

Convicts flee after hijacking prison van on M25

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX dangerous prisoners were on the run last night after overpowering their guards and hijacking a prison vehicle on the M25 while being transferred in handcuffs to jails in London.

Police, who launched a huge hunt with dogs and a helicopter, warned people not to approach any of the men who are serving sentences of between eight and 12 years, mainly for robbery.

Four of the five prison officers escorting them required hospital treatment after being savagely attacked by the prisoners' handcuffs and by their own truncheons, and one was said to be seriously hurt with head injuries. The escapees, who were each wearing two sets of handcuffs, stole jackets, money and at least one mobile telephone from their guards before ordering the civilian driver to stop in north London and fleeing on foot.

Tony Pearson, the Prison Service's director of security, described the embarrassing mass escape as a "regrettable and extremely serious incident" and ordered an investigation. Scotland Yard said three of the six were being transferred to Wormwood Scrubs and three to Pentonville — all from Brixton Prison, near Lowestoft in Suffolk.

They were nearing the end of their journey in a 50-seater coach when, at about 3pm, on the M25 near the Waltham Abbey exit in Essex, they launched a vicious assault on their guards. Four guards were beaten about the head with the prisoners' handcuffs and the guards' truncheons were taken. The driver was ordered to drive to London, possibly along the A1, then to park in Duncombe Road, Archway, north London.

The escapees were wearing prison denim that may have been covered by the prison officers' jackets. Four officers were taken to the Wittington Hospital near by for treatment to head injuries. One was said to be in a serious condition but his injuries were not believed to be life threatening.



Will and Julia Carling: he is no longer the England rugby union captain and she is no longer his wife

Drug vigilantes hack ear from beaten teenager

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FIVE masked men armed with guns, hammers and a knife hacked off the ear of a Dublin youth in an attack believed to be related to anti-drug vigilante groups.

Jason Conlon, 17, was pinned down on the floor of his home in Cabra on the north side of the city as the men cut off his right ear. They beat him with sledge and lump hammers before stripping him and covering him in white paint. Police described the attack as "pure savagery".

Surgeons at the Mater Hospital later sewed the ear back on. The assailants burst through the door of Mr Conlon's home at 10.30 on Tuesday night and bound his younger sister, Caroline, 15, with tape. Armed with two handguns, they waited half an hour until Mr Conlon returned, then took turns beating him.

The attack is one of a series that the Garda believes is related to an anti-drugs movement that has been growing increasingly militant. The first serious incident was last April when a group of men beat a drug dealer to death on a Dublin street.

Sinn Féin and the IRA are believed to be behind the surge in the anti-drugs movement, leading to fears it will cause an increase in political support for Sinn Féin and pave the way for a southern version of the Belfast-based Combined Action Against

Drugs which has been responsible for shooting dead a number of drug dealers in Northern Ireland.

But communities have welcomed the Sinn Féin and vigilante involvement. They have been frustrated with Garda failure to tackle the problem of open heroin dealing on their streets. There are about 8,000 heroin addicts in Dublin, most of them concentrated in inner-city areas. Cannabis and ecstasy are widely available.

Garda sources said Mr Conlon was not known to them as a drug dealer and was too young to be a "serious player" in the Dublin drugs underworld.

Neighbours described Mr Conlon as "a bit of a mess". They said they saw some unfamiliar faces hanging around his house in recent times but nothing to indicate that he was involved in drugs.

Dave Farrell, a neighbour, said Mr Conlon's beating was just reward if he was dealing in drugs. "The whole thing has gone too far and the authorities have done nothing about it."

"Something has to be done. This kind of thing only happens because parents are trying to protect their children. There is nowhere to lock these people up so what else can people do?" Nora Owen, the Justice Minister, said people should not take the law into their own hands.

Stalker is told to pay his former secretary £10,000

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN said to have stalked his former personal assistant was yesterday ordered to pay her £10,000 compensation. Sian Wilson, 30, claimed she was "harassed and tormented" by Richard Tyzack after being sacked for becoming pregnant.

Mrs Wilson said that she had a miscarriage because of the distress caused by Mr Tyzack's behaviour. She was awarded £10,000 for sexual discrimination by the family kitchen company, in addition to an earlier £8,500 for unfair dismissal.

Mrs Wilson accused Mr Tyzack, 48, of shouting at her and giving two-fingered signs when he saw her in the street, following her in his car while sounding his horn constantly, and pulling up alongside her and threatening: "I'm going to get you — I have a private

detective watching you." She told the hearing that she blamed the miscarriage of her second child on the "stress and trauma" caused by Mr Tyzack.

Dr Rachel Davies, the tribunal chairman, included in the award £3,000 for injury to feelings. The tribunal ruled that Mr Tyzack's firm in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, was wrong to sack her when she became pregnant.

Mr Tyzack said later: "I have a clear conscience about the way I treated her as an employee, although I do regret harassing her. It was exaggerated but I did follow her in my car because I wanted to make a point. But I'm not a stalker — just a small businessman who was pushed to the edge by the industrial tribunal system. This has cost us £70,000 in legal fees and compensation."



Wilson blamed the miscarriage of her second child on stress caused by Tyzack's behaviour

Love follows lost ring down the pan

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH expatriate who was flying home from New York lost her engagement ring when it dropped down the lavatory of a British Airways jumbo jet.

The London-bound aircraft was somewhere over the North Atlantic when Amanda Clow entered a forward lavatory of the Boeing 747 and took off her two-carat diamond ring to wash. At that moment the aircraft hit an air pocket and in the turbulence the ring fell from

the edge of the basin down the pan. Her love for her fiancé quickly followed suit. Miss Clow, 34, from south London, was working for the British consulate in New York, was travelling with her fiancé, Mark Astley, a Manhattan-based fund manager. They were going home to break the good news to their families. Miss Clow dashed from the lavatory to tell a steward what had happened and, she claims, was assured that the ring, thought to have been bought at Tiffany's, could be retrieved. However, it was never found. So

distressed was the bride-to-be that, when she returned to her seat, she found her love for Mr Astley had tarnished.

"The first thing I said to Mark was that I couldn't marry him," she said. Despite Mr Astley's protestations, she stuck to her insistence and the engagement has broken. Mr Astley, who works for the securities house Schroders, declined to comment.

Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, has since offered the couple a free transatlantic trip on Concorde. The offer has not been taken up.

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12 pupils expelled as Ridings reopens to 'failure' report

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TWELVE pupils are being expelled from the troubled Ridings School by the new acting head and a further 23 suspended in an attempt to restore order.

The decision by Peter Clark was welcomed by the teaching union which threatened strike action last month after claiming that more than 60 children there were unteachable. The Ridings, which was shut on Thursday by the local education authority, will reopen this morning, despite the threat of a strike by 33 members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

The school, in Halifax, will be officially described by a team of inspectors as "failing" this morning, paving the way for a "hit squad" to take over if a local authority rescue plan does not reverse a climate of indiscipline and underachievement. Both Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, will attend a press conference to launch the report of the two-day inspection made last week. The management and staff of the school are expected to come in

Teachers were advised yesterday to wear neutral clothing, to respect their pupils' "personal space" and to avoid aggressive body language. A new handbook from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, *Personal Safety in Schools*, advises teachers to keep their voices level and firm in confrontational situations and not to betray fear or anger. It points out danger signals among problem pupils, such as clenched fists and rigid posture.

hope that a further closure would be averted. He welcomed the expulsions as "a step in the right direction". He added: "I am optimistic from what I have heard that those in authority are now addressing our concerns and meeting our requirements."

The school has been examining a dossier on 61 allegedly unruly pupils before deciding which of them should be expelled before the strike threat is lifted. Parents of the pupils to be expelled or suspended will be informed by letter or telephone when the school reopens today.

The school was shut when discipline deteriorated despite an emergency visit by the Ofsted inspectors, and after further assaults on staff.

As a failing school, the Ridings would have 40 working days to produce an action plan that persuades Mrs Shephard not to transfer its management to an education association. Calderdale may try to pre-empt such a move by withdrawing delegated powers from the governors and assuming direct control.

Roger Scruton, page 18
Letters, page 19

Private girls' schools reject morality lessons

By JOHN O'LEARY

PLANS for compulsory lessons in morality threaten to distort traditional academic subjects, the leader of Britain's independent girls' schools said yesterday.

Margaret Rudland, president of the Girls' Schools Association, said independent schools already addressed moral issues as they arose in a wide range of subjects. But they would resist proposals from government advisers for topics to be inserted artificially in A-level courses. Speaking at the opening of the association's annual conference in Brighton, Ms Rudland said:

"Honesty and integrity are much more likely to be learnt through the systematic study of an objective discipline, such as mathematics, than by threatening its intrinsic integrity with a superficial overlay of morality."

Nick Tate, the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said last week that every A-level course should have a "moral dimension". However, Ms Rudland, Headmistress of Godolphin and Latymer School in west London, said: "Surely a really detailed study of a subject provides a kind of moral and cultural dignity of its own?"

Perish the thought that moral instruction will be included in every A-level course."

The association agreed to pioneer its own system to measure the value added by its schools. A sample of the 230 member schools will introduce "baseline tests" for new entrants next year to put subsequent GCSE and A-level results in context.

A background paper for the conference said that a "value-added summary" could be produced for each school within a week of GCSE results. The schools themselves would receive pupil-by-pupil scores calculated by Durham University academics.



Oxford dons on the way to Congregation at the Sheldonian Theatre yesterday pass demonstrators protesting at Mr Said's £20 million offer

Why Oxford said no to £20m benefactor

■ Oxford University's ruling body rejected a plan to release a greenfield site for a new business school, for which Wafic Said has pledged £20 million. David Charter reports

OXFORD dons questioned the motives of Wafic Said, the Middle Eastern businessman who has pledged £20 million for the proposed business school to be created in his name, during a highly charged debate in the university parliament yesterday.

After a meeting of 2½ hours, academics attending Congregation in a packed Sheldonian Theatre voted by 259 to 214 not to release a protected greenfield site used by the university sports club to be the site for the school. The result was met by silence.

Several speakers questioned the set-up of the proposed foundation which would run the Wafic Said Business School. It would have six members appointed by the foundation and four, including the Vice-Chancellor, by the university. Alexander Murray, doctor of medieval history at University College, opposed both the choice of site and the university's "covert" procedures.

"This was launched in the depths of the summer recess,

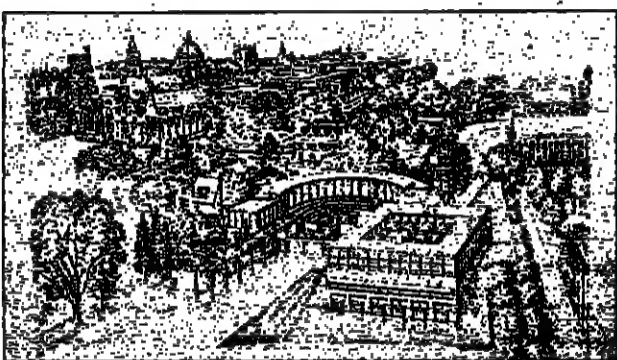
a favourite time for politicians to launch unpopular policies, as a fait accompli," Dr Murray said. "Mr Said has insisted on secrecy, on speed, and on the central site for his foundation. I am struck to the degree we are beholden in this field to outside benefactors and this is why I find myself suspicious." Dr Murray added that the constitution and dignity of the oldest university in the English-speaking world were "more important than what we are told by potential benefactors".

During the debate, Professor Sir Richard Southwood, former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, whose window overlooks the site, explained that Mr Said had asked that the plan be kept highly confidential until the last minute as a condition of his donation, partly because his son was already at the university.

Sir Richard added: "Most of you know the quantity and quality of applicants to come to this university to study management. They have come to us to be pioneers in a



Wafic Said with Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Oxford's Chancellor. Below, the plan for the business school



great new school. We must not let them down." He acknowledged that Congregation had agreed 30 years ago not to use the former Merton College site for buildings. But he said: "For my part, I believe that in voting for the

resolution I am acting in the spirit of the college's past generosity and this is certainly a time of need."

Dr Peter North, university Vice-Chancellor, told the meeting that he could confirm that a further benefactor

hoped to make a substantial donation to the school providing the sportsground site was secured. "If the resolution was rejected we would not only lose Mr Said's support but those of other benefactors."

Dr Jessica Rawson, Warden of Merton, said that at the time Merton transferred the sportsground to the university the college had put its faith in the agreement. "If this field is now considered appropriate for academic buildings, the university and all its members must ask themselves, do we wish to see Balliol and University sports ground abandoned for academic development?"

Dr Mike Woodin, a psychology lecturer from Balliol College and a Green Party member of Oxford City Council, argued the money should not be accepted because of Mr Said's background and his association with arms deals. Mr Said helped British Aerospace to win a lucrative arms contract with Saudi Arabia.

However, Professor John Kay, director designate of the business school, implored the dons to seize Mr Said's generosity. "Our challenge is to create the most intellectually serious business school in Europe and I challenge anyone here to say the objectives are not important or worthy of a great university."

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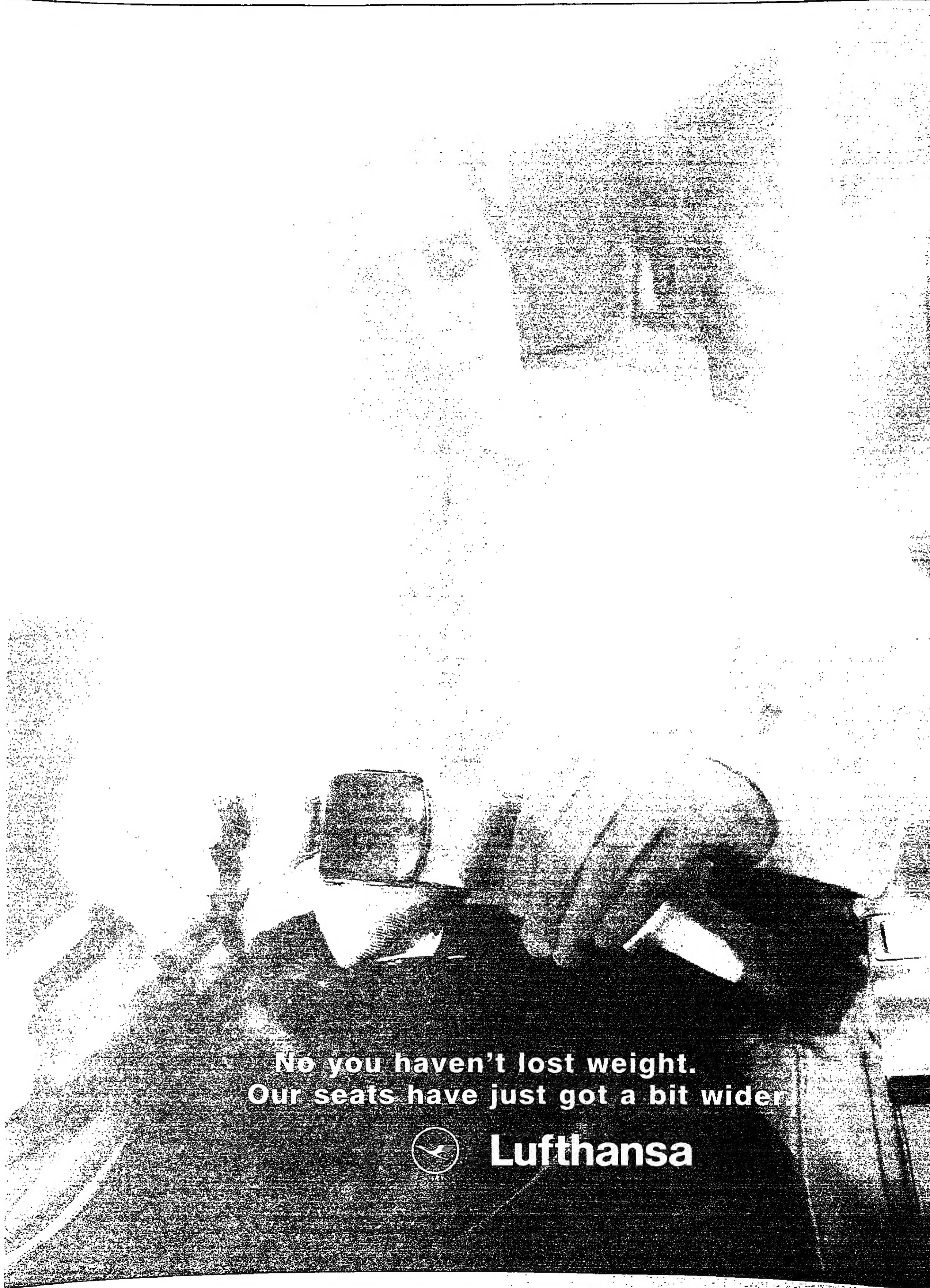
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AUTO EXPRESS 30/7/96

SEE PAGE 7

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Cathedrals to lose 900-year tradition of autonomy



Lady Howe: chaired the body which proposed the reforms

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional autonomy enjoyed by England's cathedrals is to be ended under a reform which will make them fully accountable for the first time since before the Norman Conquest. Deans and chapters will no longer be governed only by ancient cathedral statutes if the Church of England's General Synod agrees sweeping changes to the way they are run when it meets later this month.

Instead, the handful of canons who run the country's cathedrals will be made accountable to a new council, chaired by a man or woman appointed by the diocesan bishop. A new two-tier system of

government will replace the independence enjoyed by the dean and chapter, with the new council overseeing a chapter including at least two people besides the dean and his four or five canons.

The changes have been fiercely resisted by clergy from some cathedrals, who see them as eroding the historic traditions of the Church. Other clergy also regret the abolition of ancient English titles such as provost. Under the reforms, the 12 cathedral provosts are to become deans.

The reforms are the result of a commission, chaired by Lady Howe, of Aberavon, which published its report two years ago. They have arisen out of concern about the damage done to the

image of the Church by the Trollopean interecine troubles at cathedrals such as Hereford and Lincoln, which has been in difficulty since an exhibition of its Magna Carta in Australia lost £56,000. Currently, the dean, Dr Brandon Jackson, and the subdean, Canon Rex Davis, unable for years to settle their differences, have united in their refusal to comply with a request by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, that they both resign.

At Hereford, a gift from a generous benefactor enabled the dean and chapter to withdraw the cathedral's priceless Mappa Mundi from sale, but only after widespread condemnation. The ancient map of the world is now on display,

alongside the chained library, in a new visitor centre.

A cathedral currently attracting criticism is Southwark, where the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement is to celebrate its twentieth anniversary with a service later this month. The existence of a new council above cathedral chapters, although not giving any new direct powers to the bishop, is likely to lead to wider consultation before such ventures are agreed.

A proposal that the bishop chair the new councils of England's 42 cathedrals was thrown out because of the bishop's historic role as "visitor", where he has the right to conduct independent investigations into goings-on. It was decided that the two roles would clash. But

bishops will be given unprecedented influence over cathedral affairs because they will be able to sit on the new council and have the power to appoint the chairman. At present, a bishop cannot enter a cathedral, even for his own enthronement, without permission.

The Very Rev John Arnold, Dean of Durham, said: "Some of these changes were necessary." But another dean, who asked not to be named, "An additional tier of government will add to the red tape and bureaucracy."

The Very Rev Richard Lewis, Dean of Wells and chairman of the Deans and Provosts Conference, said: "The council will strengthen the work and witness of the chapter. There is a perception in

the great world out there that deans and chapters in a cathedral like Wells are unaccountable to anyone and they please themselves. This is wholly erroneous, but we are in the business of wanting cathedrals to be seen to be accountable."

The Very Rev Raymond Funnell, Dean of York and chairman of the Association of English Cathedrals, denied that the change was new and insisted that cathedrals were already accountable.

The Church of England is to back down on plans to transfer £1.3 billion, half its capital assets, into a pensions fund to pay the mounting costs of clergy pensions. Instead, a fund is to be set up to pay future pensions, financed by contributions from the dioceses.

Musicians suffer from mental and muscular discord

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ORCHESTRAL players are suffering from a dramatic increase in performance-related illnesses. Up to 70 per cent of musicians are affected by physical and psychological problems, say medical and musical experts.

Stage fright and acute anxiety are among the most common complaints, with doctors estimating that more than a quarter of their musical patients rely on beta-blockers to help them to get through a performance.

Heavier recording and touring workloads over the past five years have contributed to the increase in illnesses. Alex Scott, administrator of the British Performing Arts Medicine Trust, a charity founded to provide free healthcare and advice to arts performers, said: "We are deeply concerned about the significant number of musicians who are suffering and who are unable to work."

"There is a huge number of people with various performance-related medical conditions, including occupational diseases resulting from over-use or misuse of instruments," Mr Scott added. The organisation treated 600 new patients in 1995 and had dealt with "well over" 1,000 new ones so far.

this year. The trust advises against the habitual use of beta-blockers, which are obtainable only on prescription. They reduce the rate and force of the heart. The trust said: "A lot of people take them like Smarties. They should be looking at the root cause."

Mr Scott said that the trust's figures were only part of the total. He believed that many more victims were unaware of the charity's existence or were nervous of taking medical advice in case their employers found out.

The Performing Arts Clinic, at the London College of Music, has treated more than 700 musicians and doctors nationally report increasing numbers of musicians with performance-related complaints. Carola Grindes, the clinic's director, said: "I'd say 70 per cent of musicians suffering is a low estimate."

"Our 700 is a staggering number. I never expected so many when we began in 1990. Physical and psychological problems are on increase."

The findings are featured in the November 9 issue of *Classical Music* magazine. It reports that Dr Kit Wynn Parry, a consultant rheumatologist and rehabilitationist, believes that most of the cases

are related to muscle fatigue. The most common physical complaints are in the hands, forearms, neck and shoulders.

Ian Killik, orchestra and concert manager of the English Northern Philharmonia, the Opera North orchestra, said that one of its trombonists, Ian Davies, suffered from such an acute form of repetitive strain injury that he had to leave the orchestra: "He couldn't play. It was that severe."

A special instrument was made for Mr Davies to cope with his "shake". The design, which included a shoulder holster, has allowed him to return to playing.

The trust plans an international conference on musicians' illnesses at York University next March, is conducting a survey of 50 orchestras around the world and intends to establish an Institute of Performing Arts Medicine in London with regional outposts. An application for National Lottery money will be made.

The scale of the problem is widely recognised by orchestral managements. As many as 20 orchestras have their own doctors.

Leading article, page 19



Ian Davies, an Opera North player, has a special trombone for his "shake"

City rebuilders put commerce above design

By MARCUS BINNEY

PRAGMATISM has triumphed over vision in the contest to redesign Manchester's bombed city centre, just as it did when Sir Christopher Wren's master plan for rebuilding the City of London after the Great Fire was rejected by merchants anxious to rebuild quickly.

The judges agreed that the winning design, by EDAW, offered the best chance of getting the area back on its commercial feet by the deadline of autumn 1988. It was also the preferred choice of the property owners, including the P&O Group, which owns the Arndale shopping centre that was largely wrecked by the IRA bomb in June.

Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects and one of the judges, said: "Unquestionably the scheme by another competitor, Manchester First, showed the greatest vision, but it simply could not have been delivered in the available time."

The decision parallels London's rejection of Wren's visionary masterplan for rebuilding the City around St Paul's Cathedral with a geometric grid replacing winding medieval alleys, and diagonal avenues converging on the cathedral. Despite royal support, it foundered on the anxieties of merchants to re-

build their premises as soon as possible on existing sites.

The main feature of the Manchester scheme is a pedestrian walk linking St Ann's Square with the cathedral through a succession of public spaces. The plans also include a Trocadero, with a 38-screen cinema, a millennium centre with a 1,000-seat theatre and an additional 500,000 square feet of retail floor space, a glass-roofed winter garden in the middle of the Arndale Centre and 200 apartments.

Ian Simpson, the principal architect on the EDAW team, promised a transformation of the Arndale Centre's hated tiled exterior. "The biggest toilet block in the world will not exist in three years' time. Instead of blank walls, there will be new buildings around the centre with shops facing outwards over surrounding streets."

None of the listed buildings affected by the bomb will have to be demolished. Warren Marshall, Manchester's conservation officer, said: "There were fears that the blast had lifted the domes over the Corn Exchange and the Barton Arcade had broken their seating, but this is not so."

One building that will have to come down is the Marks & Spencer store, which will provide an opportunity for a new landmark in its place.

Why gifted artists pay a high price for their vocation

CREATIVE people often find it difficult to comply with the demands of a prosaic world. The artistically gifted are frequently so dedicated to their vocation, whether it is music, visual arts or writing, that they can appear self-absorbed, impulsive, impatient and intolerant. Even in my medical lifetime there was a sub-group whom psychiatrists labelled creative sociopaths — a term now abandoned.

The problems of being a successful musician can be physical as well as psycholog-

ical. Musicians over the years progressively deafen themselves, for the music is played at a volume which is greater than would be allowed in a factory and loud enough to cause hearing loss.

More immediately disturbing to a musician who plays wind instruments is the eczema which may spread all over the face if he, or she, uses an instrument with a handwood mouthpiece made from green ash wood, the best material but one which can cause allergies.

Some years ago a 17-year-



old girl who was a promising musician came to see me with an appalling weeping dermatitis of the face. The rash was so similar to the skin diseases that plagued those who worked with hardwood in the local boatyards that the diagnosis was obvious. The student musician had to find a

different instrument her face recovered, but she never regained her enthusiasm.

Playing wind instruments, in particular trumpets, has always been thought to predispose a patient to developing a pneumothorax, the condition in which an expanded portion of lung

bursts and thereafter leaks air into the pleural cavity so that the lung collapses.

Blowing hard into an instrument is popularly believed to render a musician liable to strokes and it is always said that anyone who plays the oboe can suffer long-term cerebral damage. So long as the cerebral circulation is healthy, it would be extremely unlikely that the musician would burst the blood vessel, and any evidence of this seems to be lacking despite the popularity of the myth. Musicians

totally devoted to their discipline may be arrogant and intolerant of anything or anybody who stands in their way, but they are also anxious and nervous.

Beta-blockers have revolutionised the treatment of stage fright in public performers and, with their help, the most highly strung and twitchy musician can give us their best without being undermined by anxiety.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Plea for new law to protect buildings

By RUSSELL JENKINS

ENGLISH Heritage called yesterday for urgent legislation to protect historic buildings awaiting listing, after industrial mills in Greater Manchester were destroyed while official moves were being made to preserve them.

Yesterday more than 30 mills were listed and another five upgraded. The mills were the first listing recommendations to be subject to public

consultation. Between the announcement and confirmation yesterday, one of three Eagley mills in Bolton and the engine house and ancillary buildings at Croft Mill, Rochdale, were demolished. Only spot-listing saved Leesbrook Mill, in Oldham, from partial demolition.

The mills listed yesterday include 11 in the Bolton area, six in Oldham, nine in Rochdale, two in Salford, four in Stockport, four in Tameside and one in Wigan.

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Goods are lost, stolen or hidden

Hospitals waste £150m a year in equipment chaos

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE NHS could afford an extra 25,000 hip operations if managers stopped wasting £150 million a year on over-priced equipment — much of which is then stolen, lost, damaged or hidden away to stop colleagues using it.

One hospital lost 750 pieces of crockery out of 900 in 18 months and had 40 kettles disappear in a year, a highly critical report by the Audit Commission discloses today. An accident and emergency department lost 20 telephones a year. One laundry manager spent £10,000 a year replacing missing linen.

On top of that, there was so much red tape from "cumber-some, old-fashioned" bureaucrats that a typical order cost £30 to process, even though a quarter of the goods bought were worth less than that.

The report makes embar-

assing reading for trusts which are currently warning the Government to give them more cash or face the worst winter for a decade.

The report found that equipment was hoarded by staff involved in "playground politics". Wards hid items to prevent others from using them. At one trust, pressure-relieving mattresses were left unused on one ward while another had to rent mattresses at £82 a day.

Hospitals had scant regard for best buys and paid vastly different prices for identical pieces of equipment. When the equipment had been bought, deliveries were chaotic: at most trusts the time or even day of arrival was unknown. Stockmen were idle between deliveries or overworked if too much turned up at once. At one trust, an unauthorised

staff member acknowledged receipt of two computer printers which were then left unattended and were stolen.

Ward nurses spent considerable time unpacking and checking goods instead of caring for patients. Better management could pay for 75 extra nurses, the report said.

To improve their cash flow, most trusts broke public procurement policy by paying late, thus losing discounts. Accounts departments often rejected invoices because they differed from the original order by a few pence.

The study found that trusts kept an average £600,000 of stock. One had £6,000 of out-of-date artificial limbs. Stockpiling contributed to theft of everything from computer equipment to confectionery.

The internal market was partly blamed. "It is generally accepted that competition between trusts has discouraged some forms of co-operation," the report said. Joint committees to consider new products had all but disappeared. Bigger hospitals had stopped advising smaller ones.

Jonathan Boyce, director of health studies at the Audit Commission, said the figures were "stunning". The Audit Commission has ordered trusts to save £150 million in three years from their supplies budgets, a 6 per cent cut, described as "fantastically conservative" by Dr Boyce. They must also make a one-off saving of £50 million by reducing stock.

Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, said: "If you are going to make these savings you have to give it some attention and some 'oomph' both from the chief executive and the board. Just to hope it will look after itself is irresponsible."

Goods for Your Health (Audit Commission, £15: 0800 502030)

Politics, page 10
Tessa Jowell, page 18

Nurses warned on sex with patients

NURSES are increasingly having sex with their patients and have been warned that they face being struck off their professional register (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Nursing watchdogs are so concerned about sexual misdemeanours, as well as cruelty to and theft from patients, that they are urging employers to report more staff to the official complaints body, the Central Council for Nursing and Midwifery.

Mandie Lavin, director of professional conduct, said that nurses, unlike doctors, had historically been allowed to have sex with patients without being automatically disciplined. The council was now striking off staff who had exploited their position, particularly by seducing psychiatric patients receiving care in the community.

"Nurses are taking part in

rehabilitation — shopping, taking patients to the pub," Ms Lavin said. "There is a clouding of professional boundaries. We have some nurses coming before us who don't realise where they should stop."

A study of the last 87 nurses struck off shows that 11 were men involved in sexual misconduct. One female nurse was removed from the register for having intimate relationships with two male psychiatric patients.

Residential and nursing homes account for a third of complaints to the council. Ms Lavin said: "Patients have been seduced, put under strict regimes of care, got up at 5am. There have been unexplained burns and scalds. There have been nurses stealing patients' money and slapping patients. I wouldn't put any of my relatives in one."



Young song thrushes are thought to need snails as back-up food during hard winters and dry summers

Song thrushes silenced as farmers' slug pellets wipe out diet of snails

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A RISE in the use of slug pellets by farmers and gardeners is being linked to a dramatic drop in song thrushes. Researchers believe that the chemicals are robbing one of Britain's favourite birds of a vital food reserve.

The chemicals kill not only slugs that damage crops and plants but also snails, the scientists have found. Young song thrushes appear to need snails during hard winters and dry summers to survive alongside the more adept adults and other gatherers of food, such as blackbirds.

Roy Taylor, a biologist with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday: "Among the song birds, the song thrush is unique. It has evolved the ability to exploit snails and, to a lesser extent, slugs." The studies show that many of the chemicals used in so-called molluscicides are also toxic to a range of insects and invertebrates, including earthworms, another food source for song thrushes and other birds.

The preliminary findings have come from a two-year

study into the decline of the song thrush by the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology. The species has suffered the biggest decline among songbirds, with numbers dropping by 65 per cent since the early 1970s.

Scientists working for the two groups believe that a number of factors are behind the decline, many of which

have affected other songbirds, such as the skylark. They include the loss of hedgerows and more tilling of fields. But the song thrush has been hardest hit.

The death rate among adult song thrushes is about 50 per cent but among young birds the rate has accelerated in the past 20 years, with only 39 per cent surviving. Theories to

account for this included the idea that young song thrushes may migrate to the Continent, where they are shot, and the impact of Britain's rising population of sparrowhawks and magpies. These effects have been ruled out as insignificant, with the main suspect being the anti-slug chemicals. The scientists are planning more detailed research.

A study of song thrushes near Midhurst, West Sussex, and Chelmsford, Essex, shows that different farming practices may also be playing a significant part. The birds at the Sussex site, an area of rich grasslands, forest and hedgerows, have bucked the national trend by having a stable population. The Essex group, living on intensively farmed arable land, have suffered in line with the national figures.

Anti-slug chemicals have been used more widely in agriculture since the 1970s, especially where oilseed rape is grown. Ploughing old rape plants into the soil leaves a lot of organic matter which does not break down easily and harbours slugs.

Waterway birds are back on increase

BIRDS living on Britain's waterways are thriving as never before, with 18 out of 20 regularly monitored species showing increases in population last year (Michael Horroby writes).

Mute swans, moorhens, mallards, whitethroats and oystercatchers are more numerous than at any time since the British Trust for Ornithology began an annual survey of birdlife on canals and rivers 22 years ago.

John Marchant, who co-ordinated the study, said: "The mild winter between 1994 and 1995 undoubtedly played a big role... Good rains in sub-Saharan Africa, which produced better food and habitat, also helped migrants that fly south."

Sand martins and sedge



Kingfisher: on the rise

warblers increased by 89 per cent and 26 per cent respectively in 1995. Tufted ducks were up 36 per cent, kingfishers up 35 per cent and grey wagtails up 23 per cent.

Only one species, the common sandpiper, declined significantly, with 15 per cent fewer recorded in 1995 than in the previous year, though that may have been because of a contraction in range rather than a fall in numbers.

Waterway birds have generally fared much better over the past three decades than birds relying heavily on farmland, where nesting sites and food supplies have been much reduced by modern cultivation methods.

Road group calls for cut in 60mph speed limit

A campaign to reduce speed limits was launched by an all-party parliamentary group. Campaigners want new measures to cut the number of speed-related casualties. The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety said there was a strong case for reducing the 60mph limit on single carriageways and the 30mph urban limit.

Cinema stabbing

A cinema-goer who asked a member of the audience to keep quiet ended up in hospital with serious stab wounds. The 27-year-old man, who had taken his girlfriend to see *The Firm* at the Virgin complex in Liverpool, was attacked as they left.

Alliance in Lords

John Alderdice, leader of the non-sectarian Alliance Party in Northern Ireland, took his seat in the House of Lords on the Liberal Democrat benches as Lord Alderdice. Dame Joyce Anelay took her seat on the Tory benches as Baroness Anelay of St Johns.

Plea to mother

A mother who left her newborn baby daughter at Harold Wood Hospital in Romford, Essex, was urged to contact the police. The woman, in her early twenties, left in a minicab early on Monday after giving hospital staff a false address.

Sea body charge

An American businessman appeared in court at Newton Abbot, Devon, charged with the murder of Ronald Joseph Platt, 51, whose body was twined up by fishermen in July. David Davis, of Malden, Essex, was remanded in custody until Monday.

Banker's opera

Belfast's Grand Opera is the first theatre in the United Kingdom to launch its own credit card. The Visa card picturing the theatre was launched in conjunction with the Beneficial Bank. The opera house receives £10 for each card issued.

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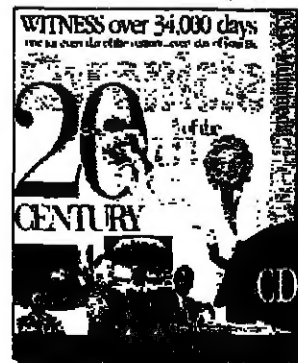
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Clarke's share-out leaves enough for small tax cut

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

KENNETH CLARKE left himself room for modest tax cuts yesterday after completing tough spending negotiations that resulted in extra funds for the health and education budgets and the expected squeeze on housing, defence and roads.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, emerged as the big victor from the discussions with an increase of more than £1 billion that he argued was necessary to prevent a crisis in the health service this winter. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, secured a considerable increase in her budget for the second year in

succession. A two-hour Cabinet meeting put the final touches to a spending round whose details will be announced with the Budget on November 26.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was always resigned to a tough battle because the Treasury has earmarked defence for a three-year spending squeeze. However, his colleagues suggested that he was reasonably happy with the outcome and had seen off demands that the cost of £4 billion defence orders announced in July should fall on next year's budget. It was disclosed that

Mr Portillo had settled with the Treasury last Friday, as friends sought to kill suggestions that he had been the subject of a last-minute purge by Mr Clarke.

The Chancellor was understood last night to have shaved up to £2 billion off the £268 billion planned total for next year, leaving him scope for a 1p cut in income tax if he wishes to make one. But some Tory MPs are urging him to steer away from cuts in the basic rate and to offer specific help for the lower-paid and for families.

Mr Dorrell is understood to have agreed with the Treasury

a £500 million increase to cover the costs of health service inflation. He then went on to win some £700 million of the extra £1 billion he had asked for to prevent ward closures, rising waiting lists and patient transfers in the months before the general election.

Mrs Shephard is believed to have won an extra £200 million to £300 million, following the £800 million she secured on top of her budget last year.

The state of the health service led to another clash between John Major and Tony Blair in the Commons. Mr Blair protested at Question Time that the service was in crisis and accused ministers of using "sticking plaster" remedies to see them through the election.

He challenged the Prime Minister: "Admit what you denied just two weeks ago, that with casualty departments closing and waiting lists up in many parts of the country — and some of the hospital trusts indeed technically bankrupt — that the NHS is indeed in a state of crisis."

Mr Major said he did not accept that. Neither did he accept "most of the misleading statistics" used by Mr Blair and other Labour MPs in recent weeks. He accused the Labour Leader of making "kindergarten soundbites" and said that if he was so concerned about funding he would have matched the Tory



Bottomley fails to win more for the arts

By Valerie Elliott

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY indicated yesterday that she had failed to convince the Treasury to increase funding for the arts. The Heritage Secretary said that her department was not "inviolate" from cuts and that the Government's priority was to keep pressure on public spending and to focus funding on health, education and law and order.

The department's budget is almost £1 billion. Mrs Bottomley is committed to continue core funding for the arts but an increase was unlikely at a time when the National Lottery is providing millions of pounds.

She also conceded for the first time that a "handful" of arts projects may never receive their lottery funding if they fail to match the sums with cash from private investment.

To qualify for lottery grants, arts organisations have to provide 10 per cent of projects costing up to £100,000, and 25 per cent of any costing more than that.

Jennifer Edwards, director of the National Campaign for the Arts, said that if companies lost revenue funding from the Arts Council their business plans would be disrupted. "People who have been allocated lottery cash may have to say they can't use it... it won't be a monument to the millennium if we have half-completed arts projects throughout the country."

Portillo puts up strong defence to avoid heavy budget losses

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE defence budget appears largely to have escaped the Chancellor's knife, despite Treasury interest in slicing several hundred million off next year's £21.9 billion spending plans.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has apparently agreed to a mini-squeeze on spending that will have little impact and can be implemented through further efficiency drives.

Mr Portillo, backed by previous pledges from the Prime

Minister, was able to argue that any big cuts would undermine the one thing the Armed Forces had been promised: stability after a period of substantial manpower reductions. His case for ringfencing his budget was assisted by last week's alarming Army manpower figures, which showed that last year's shortfall of 4,000 trained soldiers had increased to 5,350, despite an improvement in recruiting.

Defence sources said that his negotiations with Kenneth Clarke had been completed "amicably". Mr Portillo was

also able to reassure Mr Clarke that the sale of 57,400 Service married quarters for £1.662 billion to Annington Homes was going ahead without a hitch, providing the Treasury with crucial funds for the Government's overall financial strategy. The sale was completed yesterday.

None of the equipment contracts announced earlier this year, such as the replacement for the Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft, will be at risk, but some orders that have not yet reached the contract stage could be delayed or pruned.

pledge to increase funding in real terms each year.

Mr Blair countered that government statistics showed an extra £1.5 billion had been spent on the health service "but it has gone into bureaucracy and administration, not into proper patient care". This was why there were 20,000 more senior managers and 50,000 fewer nurses since the

Government's internal market reforms.

Mr Major said: "You know that waiting lists are falling, that the number of operations is increasing, that a wider range of treatments are being produced, and that the NHS is something this country should be proud of — not something to be used as a political football by you."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates including Scottish land tenure and ownership, and British initiatives to relieve world poverty. From 2.30pm, trade and industry questions; Local Government and Rating Bill, second reading; backbench debate on care of the elderly in Hillingdon, in the Lords: debate on the National Health Service; House of Commons: House of Commons Bill, second reading.

Post-election tide may turn in pro-Europe MPs' favour

It is now unfashionable to be enthusiastic about a European single currency. The Government and the Labour front bench have both been sounding dubious about the chances of monetary union starting on time in January 1999 and about the conditions to be met by Britain. Their emphasis is on the difficulties of joining, not the opportunities. But that is partly pre-election caution.

The dissenting voices are the Liberal Democrats, a vocal minority of pro-European Labour MPs and the cross-party European Movement, which includes both these groups and a few Tory MPs like Quentin Davies and Edwina Currie and MEPs like John Stevens. The European Movement has taken a higher profile under the chairmanship of Giles Radice. But it is still rather like the Institute of Economic Affairs was, from a different stance, in the 1960s and early 1970s — a band of the committed battling against the tide of fashionable opinion.

Yesterday the movement published a pamphlet, *The Other Side of the Coin*, putting the positive case for joining and responding to points made by opponents of monetary union. It deals with fears raised by the sceptics — for example, about Britain's continuing ability to take decisions on taxes and public spending. Of course, the sceptics will reject these arguments. But the politically sig-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

nificant point is that the European Movement has ensured that the case for participation does not go by default. It is, after all, shared by many in business and overseas.

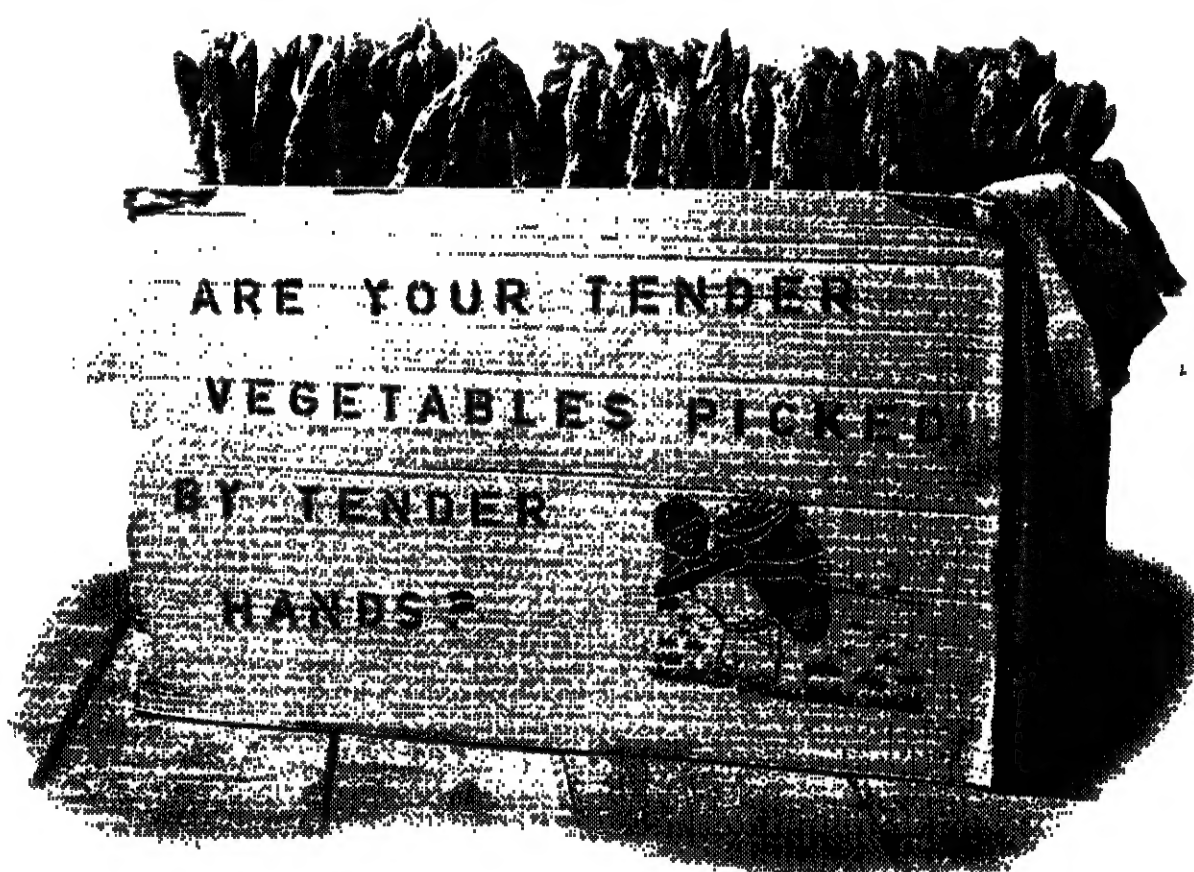
The pre-election debate is artificial since neither of the main parties wants to discuss monetary union. The Tory leadership cannot because it would reopen party divisions, while Labour does not want to take up a potentially unpopular electoral position and be accused of abandoning the pound. Hence, the current evasions about leaving all options open.

Labour now has a position of studied ambiguity, not ruling out entry but warning, as Robin Cook did recently, about the "formidable obstacles" to British participation in the first wave. Mr Cook, leader of Labour's Keynesian Left, anyway has doubts about the impact of monetary union on growth and unemployment, though he admitted that Britain would "ultimately" have to join if a single currency was successful in the medium term.

Mr Cook's sceptical spin on Labour's wait-and-see approach does not mean that the leadership is going to rule out entry in the next Parliament, as several ministers would like John Major to announce on behalf of the Tories. Nothing

has been said that would prevent a Labour government from deciding to join a single currency. There are obviously serious problems, not just the economic conditions but also politically: about whether a newly elected government would want to face all the battles, and probable referendum, involved in joining at the same time as implementing its long economic, social and constitutional reform agenda. But there must be at least a 30 per cent chance, if not higher, that a Blair government would back entry in the first wave. The key factors would be whether it had a large majority and how far the defeated Tories were in disarray, as much as the exact level of budget deficits in the rest of Europe. After the election, the pro-monetary union forces in Whitehall and the City, will become more vocal and seek to persuade Tony Blair about the dangers of delaying: that "not now may mean never" because a single currency might develop in ways unacceptable to Britain. Various compromises are possible, such as declaring a firm intention to enter on a specified later date, while the start date may anyway slip. Both the Tory and the Labour front benches will sound sceptical ahead of the election, but the debate may change afterwards. The European Movement may no longer be so isolated.

PETER RIDDELL



Ica, Peru. A young girl is taken from school to work alongside her mother in the asparagus fields.

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Kremlin 'regent' elbows Prime Minister aside while Yeltsin recuperates

Constitution is ignored as 'whiz-kid' runs Russia

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

FOR THE first time in more than two centuries, Russians prepared themselves yesterday for life under a regency.

Officially Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, became acting head of state shortly before President Yeltsin underwent heart-bypass surgery early in the day. But it is another figure, Mr Yeltsin's most trusted aide, Anatoli Chubais, who will wield the real power.

The Russian constitution states unequivocally that the Prime Minister should take over the presidential responsibilities, including control of the nuclear arsenal.

But there are few doubts that the real control of the country would remain in the hands of Mr Chubais, a younger, more clever and more ambitious politician.

The 41-year-old ginger-haired economist may look too young to have a driving licence, let alone run Russia, but in four months he has emerged as the most powerful player in Kremlin politics, earning him the title of "Russia's regent".

Despite his protestations

that he is simply a loyal servant of the Kremlin, most people in the know think differently. A recent poll of 100 Russian political figures disclosed that Mr Chubais was regarded as more powerful than the President.

His rise to power is miraculous. He was sacked from the Government last January and seemed destined for oblivion, but fought his way back into the Kremlin and went on to mastermind Mr Yeltsin's brilliant re-election campaign.

He was rewarded by being made chief of the Presidential Administration, an important job he has turned into the most powerful in the land. With Mr Yeltsin removed, Mr Chubais has been left to do much of the executive decision-making.

Much of his success is due to his close working and personal relationship with Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter and key adviser. They control whom the Russian leader meets, what he reads and what executive orders he signs.

"Because the President's working time is so scarce, our priority is to ensure we make the best use of it," said a



Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's acting head of state, tries to calm workers demanding payment of their wages

Kremlin source, sounding every bit like Sir Humphrey Appleby manipulating his glib boss in *Yes, Minister*. "Policy choices must be as well prepared for him as possible."

Mr Chubais's supporters are mainly drawn from the ranks of the bright new generation of technocrats and businessmen. As the mastermind of the country's privatisation programme, he is seen as the surest guarantee that Russia remains on the path of economic reform. But to his

critics, who far outnumber his backers, Mr Chubais is little more than a power-hungry Rasputin, who under the guise of democratic principles has taken over the running of the country without ever being elected to office.

Pavel Voshchanov, a former Yeltsin press secretary, said: "A covert political coup has taken place in Russia since the presidential elections," he wrote in the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "All power is now concentrated in the

hands of representatives of the clan headed by Anatoli Chubais."

Certainly General Aleksandr Lebed blamed his dismissal last month not on President Yeltsin, who sacked him on live television, but on Mr Chubais, whom he accused of trying to establish a "regency".

Politicians from across the political spectrum have since joined in the attack, particularly after the appointment of Boris Berezovsky, one of sev-

eral controversial business figures who have been given senior government jobs.

Despite the criticism, Mr Chubais, a former engineer from St Petersburg, seems in no danger now as he consolidates his position largely unchallenged. However, his influence will last only as long as Mr Yeltsin remains in office. If the Russian leader dies or can no longer carry out his functions, Mr Chubais's support base will collapse and his enemies move in for the kill.

Strength of heart muscle is key to life or death

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has survived coronary bypass surgery in an operation lasting seven hours. It seems that more of the occluded coronary arterial system needed to be bypassed than pre-operative tests had suggested.

Most patients having a bypass operation require two to four bypasses, but the President had considerably more than this, although his surgeon has refused to say how many. When a patient needs multiple bypasses, seven is unusual but not exceptional.

In these operations only three or four main pipes,



whether they are formed from a vein taken from the leg or an artery from inside the chest, are used but the same transplanted vessel, whether artery or vein, is joined to the diseased recipient coronary artery at more than one point, thereby bypassing different narrowed lengths of the blocked coronary artery. In this type of surgery, the

transplanted blood vessel loops along the diseased coronary artery and its appearance is reminiscent of the way that a ramble takes root at the points where it touches the earth.

Each of the loops of the transplanted vessel counts as a bypass. The President may therefore have had three or four main transplanted ves-

sels but from these he may have seven connections.

The principal disadvantage of a long operation like the President's, during which time his blood pressure would have been kept at an unusually low level, is that he is more likely to suffer a stroke while on the table. The longer the surgery, the greater the risk of brain damage.

After any bypass, it is the quality of the muscle of the heart which is the most important factor that determines the long-term outcome. President Yeltsin has already suffered two heart attacks, each of which would have left a

scarred heart muscle. Another problem with which the cardiologists and the heart surgeons have had to contend is the President's underactive thyroid. This condition, known as myxoedema, predisposes a patient to widespread atheromatous vascular disease, in particular the blocking of the smaller arteries in the heart and the brain by fatty deposits.

It was essential that the physicians overcame the President's thyroid problems before he was operated on, otherwise the heart muscle might have reacted badly either during surgery, or af-

terwards while the patient was being warmed up following the hypothermia which is induced during the operation.

For most people, the crucial recovery time after surgery is usually seven to eight days, but in view of the President's other problems it may be two or three weeks before a full and useful assessment can be made of his likely future health.

During Mr Yeltsin's recovery, infection will be the most dreaded complication.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

Tonic for Kohl in Lenin's casebook

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, has invited President Yeltsin to spend his post-operation convalescence in a German clinic.

The offer, relayed to the Kremlin through German diplomats, came as two German cardiac specialists, Professor Thorsten Wahlers and Axel Haverich, were in attendance at the operation.

The German involvement has struck an historical chord: in 1923 a German doctor, Oswald Bumke, was called in by the Russians to treat Lenin, who had suffered a stroke. Then, as now, there was disagreement among the Russian doctors about how to proceed, and foreign doctors were consulted.

In his recently unearthed memoirs, published in 1947, he recounts that the Russian doctors were excellent diagnosticians. "But they were missing an essential ingredient: the ability to act." A similar event has been witnessed in Mr Yeltsin's case, with the two Germans and Michael DeBakey, the American specialist, in attendance.

The political dimension is intriguing. Bumke writes how Trotsky would grill the doctors to find out about Lenin's condition. So, too, would Lenin's rival, Bukharin.

Bumke was encouraged by his Government to stay at Lenin's bedside as long as possible. Although Lenin died in 1924, such a role is regarded as a worthwhile political gamble: now, if the Russian leader recovers, he will owe a debt to the Germans.

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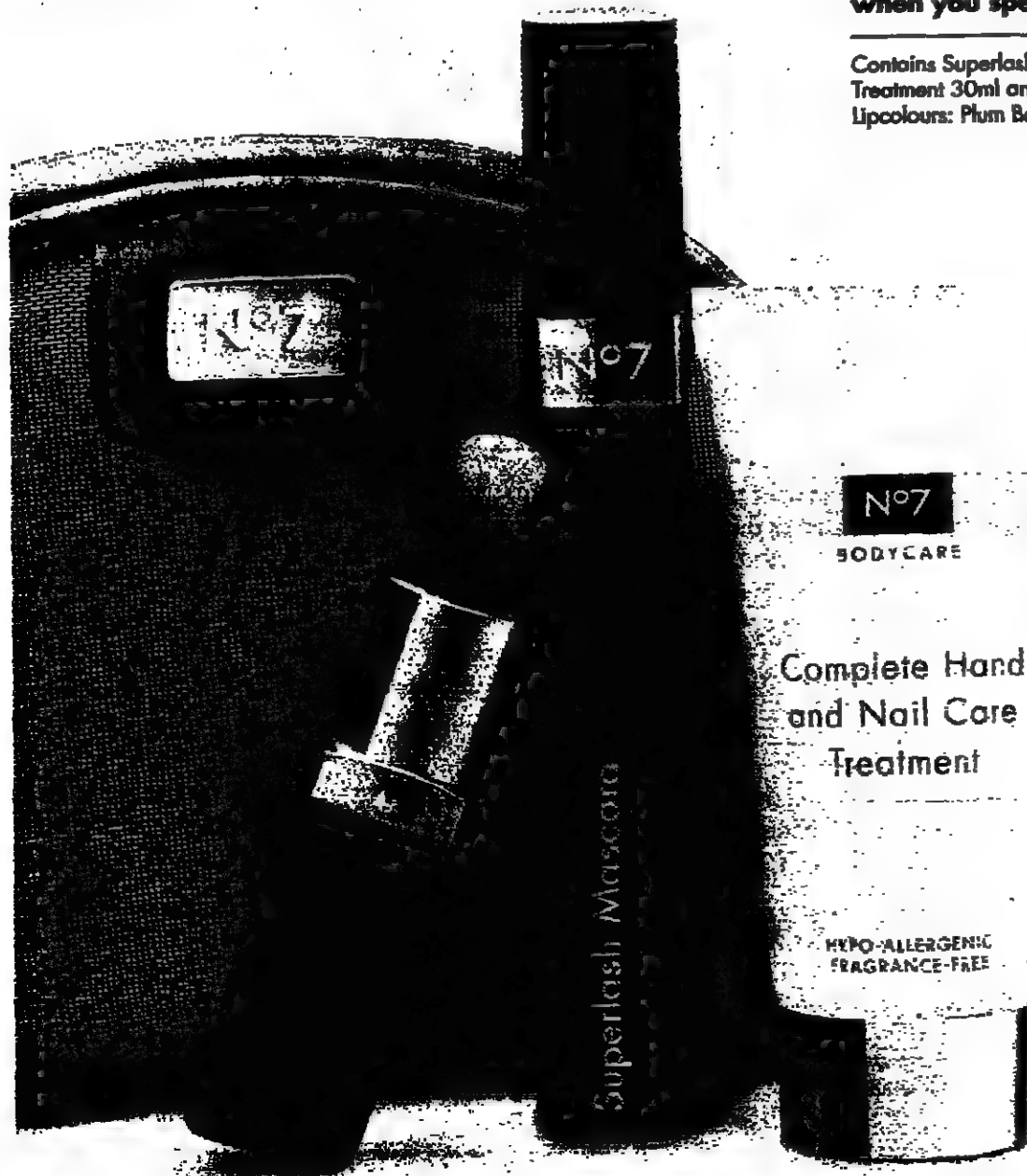
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Looters pick over dictator kitsch in Mobutu palace

ONE of the wicked pleasures of citizens who have lived under a dictatorship is to rifle through a deposed despot's personal effects.

One might discover in the bookshelves a shift from Marx to Friedman, an obsession with dental hygiene or, on the record deck, a prescient choice of LP. The marble-lined palace in Goma of President Mobutu of Zaire represents an age of dictator kitsch.

Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa Zabanga (né Joseph Desiré) is expected to take charge amid the uprising in the east and chaos in his capital after treatment in Switzerland for cancer this week. It is difficult to see why he should bother. He has lost North and South Kivu to a motley collection of rebel groups united in their hatred of a man who lines his palace walls with gilt and red lacquer and wastepaper baskets with polished malachite.

Goma, taken by the rebels at the weekend, was quiet yesterday. The front line lay about ten miles west of the city while its new leaders begged the international community to return to the province to give relief to 1.1 million Hutu refugees from Rwanda.

Power, water and radio links had been restored. No such efforts had been made by Mr Mobutu, for whom the political term "kleptocracy" was coined. For the past 30



Sam Kiley reports from poverty-stricken Goma on the vulgar display of wealth by Zaire's absent dictator

years he has allowed much of Zaire, including the cities, to return to the jungle.

His main interest has been in amassing a personal fortune of an estimated £5 billion and building himself palaces. In Goma, his 1970s residence was so heavily mirrored it was like a maze in which one constantly frightened oneself. Giant bottles of Chanel No 5 perfume and aftershave sat next to his purple, shell-shaped Jacuzzi, with its gilded headrest and remote-controlled stereo. Next door was another Jacuzzi, this time in royal blue, more magnum bottles of Armani and other designer scents jostled for space with lizard-skin shoes.

Above the dining room hung a dense chandelier of plastic tubes above a table painted in gloss white. The chairs — green velvet and gilt — had golden lions carved into their armrests. Amid the kaleidoscope of reds, purples, greens, golds, mirrors and whites the only constant was shininess. Poverty-stricken Goma's residents may be. They looted Mr Mobutu's stereo, but have not touched his questionable furniture. Os-

car Kalimba, a hotel worker who had volunteered to drive a lorry delivering water to Goma's destitute and hand out United Nations food stocks to malnourished children displaced by the rebel uprising in Goma, North Kivu's capital, swelled with self-satisfaction.

"It feels great to be doing something useful. We have lived under Mobutu's selfish reign for too long. Now we are trying to be sensible and work together," he said.

The name Mobutu translates as "The cock who jumps all the chicks in the farmyard". He will not be welcomed home by his people. "I don't want to see his portrait ever again," said Mr Kalimba. **Kinshasa:** Thousands of students stormed through the Zairean capital in stolen vehicles yesterday, defying a government ban on public demonstrations and demanding the resignation of the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo. Some attacked foreign journalists covering the unrest, accusing their governments of supporting the rebels who have taken over parts of eastern Zaire. (AP)



The Skeidhara river floods over sands, swollen with water seeping from the giant lake under Iceland's glacier

Iceland flood hits roads and bridges

Reykjavik: A long-awaited flood, caused by a volcanic eruption last month, swept away roads and bridges in the south of Iceland yesterday (Hildur Helga Sigurdardottir writes). Such is its power that fishermen were warned to avoid deep-sea fishing off the south coast as the flood is expected to cause turbulence when it hits the seabed.

The Loki volcano began erupting on October 1, and a column of steam was seen rising from the Vatnajökull glacier

— Europe's largest — the following day. The eruption stopped on October 12, but a vast pool of water built up beneath the ice.

As scientists had long predicted the flood, the area had been evacuated. However, Iceland faces a bill for millions of pounds to repair the roads and bridges.

David Oddsson, the Prime Minister, said: "It is not as if we weren't expecting this. But it is happening on a much

larger scale and much faster than we expected."

The water level in Grimsvotn, the lake under the glacier, reached an unprecedented 5,000ft, which brought on the flood now cascading over the south coast. However Arni Snorrason, a hydrologist, said: "It is highly worrying that this enormous flood seems hardly to have denied the supply in the glacier as all this water will eventually have to find an outlet."

WORLD SUMMIT

Butler left \$5m dies aged 51

New York: Bernard Lafferty, the Irish butler who inherited a fortune from his late employer, Doris Duke, was found dead at his house in California (Quentin Letts writes).

Mr Lafferty, 51, a hard drinker, appeared to have died of natural causes. His early death was in keeping with the weird saga of the Duke millions. When the octogenarian tobacco heiress died in 1993, she left \$5 million (£3 million) plus an annuity of \$500,000 to him. Scarcely was her body cold than he turned to a life of champagne and Cadillacs. Duke left the balance of her \$1.2 billion estate to charity.

British soldier dies in Bosnia

A British reservist, Lance Corporal Steven Thirlwell, 26, was killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday when his armoured personnel carrier crashed at a hairpin bend and fell 40ft down an embankment (Michael Evans writes). The driver was seriously injured.

He was the fifth soldier to die among the 48,000 serving with the Nato-led peace force in Bosnia.

Five killed in Korea gun fight

Tokyo: Two alleged North Korean agents, on the run since their submarine ran aground off South Korea in September, have been shot dead in a gun battle with South Korean troops (Robert Whymant writes). A military spokesman said three South Korean soldiers were killed and eight wounded in the exchange of fire.

González in clear on death squads

Madrid: A three-year cloud was lifted from the political career of Felipe González, now Spain's Opposition leader, when the Supreme Court decided not to charge the then Prime Minister with involvement in the state-run death squads that kidnapped and killed suspected Basque terrorists in the 1980s.

Alert over deadly ostrich meat

Johannesburg: One woman has died and at least 21 other workers at an ostrich abattoir in Oudtshoorn in the southern Cape have tested positive after an outbreak of the deadly Congo fever (Inigo Gilmore writes). Workers probably contracted the virus while handling contaminated meat.

Britain asked about illicit Hutu arms

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has asked Britain for information about a British-based company suspected of helping to ship weapons to refugee camps in eastern Zaire as part of a web of illicit arms trafficking to Hutu extremists there.

The Customs and Excise was first asked to investigate in November 1995, and further inquiries were made the following December and in August. But Britain has yet to provide any information.

Britain has also been asked to check the serial numbers of a quantity of weapons to identify their origin, but has responded by proposing on-site inspection of the weapons instead. The allegation against the unnamed British firm came in a UN report, obtained by *The Times* yesterday, which describes how Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, had become the hub of an arms-smuggling network stretching from South Africa to Eastern Europe.

Although Zaire refused to co-operate with the UN investigation, the report concludes that "Zaire or elements within Zaire" have helped to arm the Hutu extremists using refugee camps in eastern Zaire to mount cross-border raids into Rwanda. The arms-smuggling effort was apparently orchestrated by leaders of the former Rwandan military operating with Zairean passports in Kenya, including General Augustin Bizimungu, the former army chief.

The Hutu extremists planned to recapture Rwanda, which fell to rebels from the Tutsi minority after the 1994

genocide in which more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus died. The report notes that some Hutu refugees speak openly of a campaign of "insecticide" to annihilate the Tutsis.

The UN report, prepared by a four-man commission, provides a rare insight into arms smuggling to Hutu insurgents based in eastern Zaire.

"Reliable and highly reliable sources in Belgium, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and the United Kingdom painted a coherent picture of huge, loose, overlap-

ping webs of more or less illicit arms deals, arms flights and arms deliveries spanning the continent from South Africa as far as Europe, particularly Eastern Europe," the report said.

The UN investigation found that former Rwandan military officers held regular meetings in hotels in Nairobi to organise the arms-smuggling effort and collect hundreds of thousands of dollars at fund-raising meetings. They are also suspected of using a Nairobi printing plant to produce counterfeit US dollars.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are also raised in refugee camps in Zaire and Tanzania, by selling relief supplies and levying "war taxes" on aid agency workers. Kinshasa airport appeared to serve as a hub for weapons shipments, some of which are redirected to eastern Zaire.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council yesterday considered French, German and Italian suggestions for humanitarian intervention in

Aides study call for multinational force

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and French officials met yesterday to discuss President Chirac's appeal for a multinational force to protect refugees in eastern Zaire.

Although British ministers appeared reluctant to get involved in deploying troops to eastern Zaire, they agreed to listen to the French proposal to see if there was any contribution Britain could make. Britain and France have developed close working relations in handling peace support missions after their four years of joint operations in the former Yugoslavia.

However, British ministers, strongly backed by military advisers, do not want to become immersed in an operation that has no clear-cut mission. So far, only Spain has agreed to participate in the proposed force.

British ministers made it clear they would not be rushed into a poorly thought-out operation in a part of

Africa where Britain has hardly any interests.

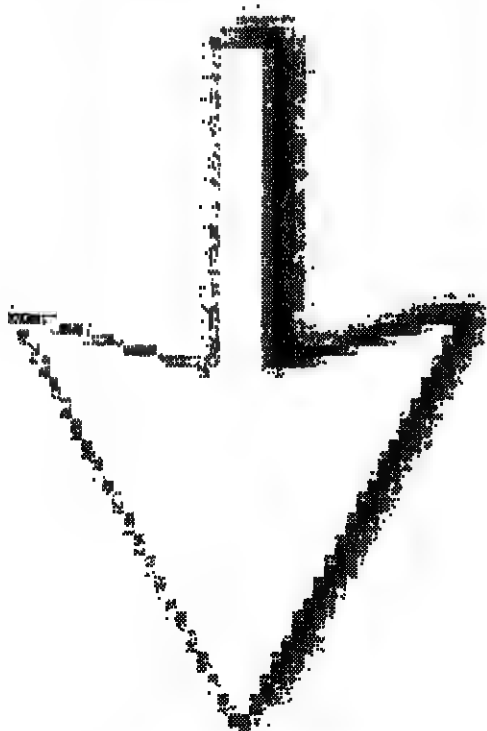
However, ministers are acutely aware that there is a recent precedent for deploying British troops to Africa.

In 1994, when violence erupted in Rwanda after the deaths in a plane crash of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in April, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 918, authorising the expansion of the UN force in Rwanda to 5,500 troops to provide protection to the civilian population and security for humanitarian operations.

Britain agreed to send about 600 specialist logistics troops for three months. They were deployed from August to November 1994.

The British troops, drawn mainly from 5 Airborne Brigade, repaired UN vehicles, rebuilt bridges and roads and provided medical treatment for more than 125,000 people.

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Pakistan shows its contempt for woman who shattered democratic dream

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN ISLAMABAD

THE second sacking of Benazir Bhutto in six years for incompetence, corruption and abuse of power leaves Pakistan's democracy a broken dream. She has smashed it as decisively as she once inspired it. The nation approaches its 50th birthday divided, demoralised and impoverished by its venal political system.

Miss Bhutto's two years in power have been even more calamitous than her period of rule in 1988-90. The hope she gave the nation has returned to her as contempt. From the taxi drivers of Rawalpindi to the international businessmen of Karachi, nobody has a good word for her — and especially not for her rich husband, Asif Zardari.

If this were a different era the military would take over, but Pakistan is stuck instead with another general election in February that could bring in another administration masquerading as democratic and honest. A corruption commission being established under presidential orders could try to weed out the worst of the offenders and ban them from politics. Implemented properly, such an operation would destroy the present political establishment.

President Leghari, in sacking Miss Bhutto, referred to the death of Murtaza Bhutto, her younger brother, shot by police in Karachi in September. Nobody doubts it was assassination and, equally, nobody believes Miss Bhutto was involved. But Murtaza was an outspoken political enemy and had the support of his mother, Nusrat Bhutto. He was more an embarrassment than a threat. But the perception of high-level political assassination undermined what last fragments of credibility and respect the administration could claim. The Bhuttos are a divided, disaster-struck family: the patriarch hanged, a son poisoned, another son shot, a daughter discredited.

Miss Bhutto's biggest political burden has not been the weak and divided Opposition, whose record for fraud when in power was hardly less inglorious than her Government's, but her husband. He came from a modest landowning family — far beneath the social status of the Bhutto feudal landlords. His father, Hakim, owned the Bambino Cinema in Karachi — hardly an economic match for the Bhuttos.

Miss Bhutto brushed aside warnings a few weeks ago by President Leghari that high-level corruption had reached unsustainable levels. Earlier she had defied nationwide despair with her husband and appointed him Minister for Investments, even though no such ministry existed. He put his friends and allies in top government agency positions and no sizeable financial deal could pass him by unnoticed. Reports that he purchased a £25 million mansion near Haslemere in Surrey and owned a house in Belgravia, added to the Bhuttos' reputation for impropriety.

Miss Bhutto, confronted by the International Monetary Fund over the crashing economy, last week gave up the Finance Ministry portfolio. The Government was forced to announce spending cuts and the raising of new taxes — even on her fellow landowning classes, whose holdings were always tax-free. It came too late. President Leghari, vice-president of Miss Bhutto's party, is an old friend forced to show his own, the army's and the nation's disgust with her Government.

Election pledge in doubt as Bhutto team rounded up

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR BHUTTO, Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister, is under virtual house arrest and 30 senior politicians and officials have been detained by the new interim Government. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who was arrested yesterday morning in Lahore, was flown to Islamabad. His whereabouts were unknown. Last night Islamabad was a city of fear and uncertainty as little information was available about the plans of the interim administration. President Leghari twice postponed a press conference.

Though the President has pledged fresh elections within 90 days, most observers doubt that will happen. However, Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, called the sacking of Miss Bhutto's Government "divergence for the people", and was confident that he would win a general election.

Those arrested include Nawaz Khokhar, Miss Bhutto's former Minister for Science and Technology; Masood Sherif, the chief of the Intelligence Bureau; and Rehman Malik, head of the Federal Intelligence Agency. All leading members of her Pakistan People's Party and a former minister have been forbidden to leave the country. Many

party leaders — flying to Islamabad for a meeting with Miss Bhutto — were taken off their plane at Karachi.

"The security forces are not allowing anybody to meet her," said Aftab Sherpao, Chief Minister of North-West Frontier Province, before he eventually became the first Bhutto loyalist to get access to her house. He criticised what is being called an army-backed constitutional coup, calling it an illegal and unconstitutional act.

Miraj Khalid, the new Prime Minister, and 15 other Cabinet members took oaths of office yesterday. The Cabinet includes Shahid Javed Buruk, a senior vice-president of the Royal Bank, who will hold the finance portfolio, Sahibzada Yakub Ali Khan, the Foreign Minister, and Mrs Abida Hussain, a former Ambassador to Washington.

Some Pakistan People's Party members, such as Shafoq Mahmood and Qaim Ali Shah, have been inducted into the Cabinet. Fakharuddin Ibrahim, a former Attorney-General, is now Law Minister. Miraj Khalid, a former National Assembly Speaker and Rector of the Islamic University of Islamabad, is a respected politician. A former leader of the Pakistan People's

Party, he retired from politics in 1993 after differences with Miss Bhutto. He is reputed to be honest but most observers are sceptical about his ability to provide strong leadership. The oath-taking ceremony at the President's house was restricted to civil and military officials. No journalists were allowed. The army's top brass was apparently fully involved in the President's midnight move against the Bhutto Government, the military turning against Miss Bhutto because of rampant corruption at the highest government level.

In a proclamation yesterday the President charged the Bhutto Government with killing thousands of people in police custody in Karachi and elsewhere. He accused Miss Bhutto of ridiculing the superior judiciary and flouting its judgments and said her Government had violated the fundamental rights of privacy for citizens, alleging it tapped the phones of the judges, senior army officers and political leaders. He also cited widespread corruption as the main reason for sacking the Government.

In Karachi thousands of chanting supporters of the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement celebrated in the streets. The MQM, an ethnic organisation representing Urdu-speakers from India, was persecuted by the ousted Government. Hundreds of supporters were killed and thousands have been languishing in jail for the past three years without trial.

The movement has strong political support in Karachi, Pakistan's financial capital, and other urban centres in the southern province of Sindh. There are wide fears of attacks on Miss Bhutto's supporters, but Sahibzada Hussain, the movement's self-styled leader, has appealed to his party members to refrain from violence.

End of a dream, page 17
Leading article, page 19



Nawaz Sharif, left, the Opposition leader and former Prime Minister, and Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, his party vice-president, yesterday

Self-styled martyr faces new political challenge

BY JOANNA PITMAN

BENAZIR BHUTTO'S abrupt removal as Prime Minister on Monday, amid allegations of corruption and nepotism, and her isolation under armed guard is the sort of treatment that has always made the Bhuttos rise up and fight against injustice and tyranny.

Miss Bhutto is a hardened political fighter. With two terms of office now behind her and many scars on her economic and domestic political records, she will know that she has again badly misjudged the power hierarchies to make Pakistan's feudalism work for her. She has also failed to master the late President Zia ul-Haq's harsh legacy of institutional control by the military and the mullahs.

As her grip weakened and political realities spiralled out of control, Miss Bhutto gradually retreated into the defence of denial. Growing evidence of her disinterest in the sectarian

conflict in Karachi, of her mismanagement of the economy and lack of commitment to economic liberalisation — which led to the suspension of a \$1.5 billion (\$914 million) International Monetary Fund loan — of her neutering of the opposition, were all being dismissed as proof of a grand conspiracy by the West to oust her unjustly.

Interviewed in office a few months ago and already besieged with evidence of her

falling leadership, Miss Bhutto appeared to have turned her attention to image-making. The long, echoing corridors of her presidential palace were being freshly carpeted in blood red. Legions of obsequious staff scurried about in preposterous military uniforms and Miss Bhutto played a tour de force role of the embattled leader.

It is only in understanding Miss Bhutto's background that it is possible to see her

motives for power. The seminal event in her life was the torture and execution in 1979 of her father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, under the orders of General Zia. "I wouldn't be in politics if it hadn't been for the fact that my father was killed," she has said. Power, feudal control and great wealth are riveted to the Bhutto name in the popular imagination. When her father was hanged, she could not turn back. Ever since, her life has been mould-

ed by the struggle to prove herself, to retain power in the hands of the Bhuttos, and to vindicate her father.

She has been jailed and tortured, her younger brother was murdered in 1985, her mother turned against her. Her older brother, a critic of her regime, was killed recently. Still only 42, she will not give up. As a self-styled martyr, she will try to use her downfall as a base from which to build her greatest role yet.



Benazir Bhutto, now under house arrest, and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, detained yesterday

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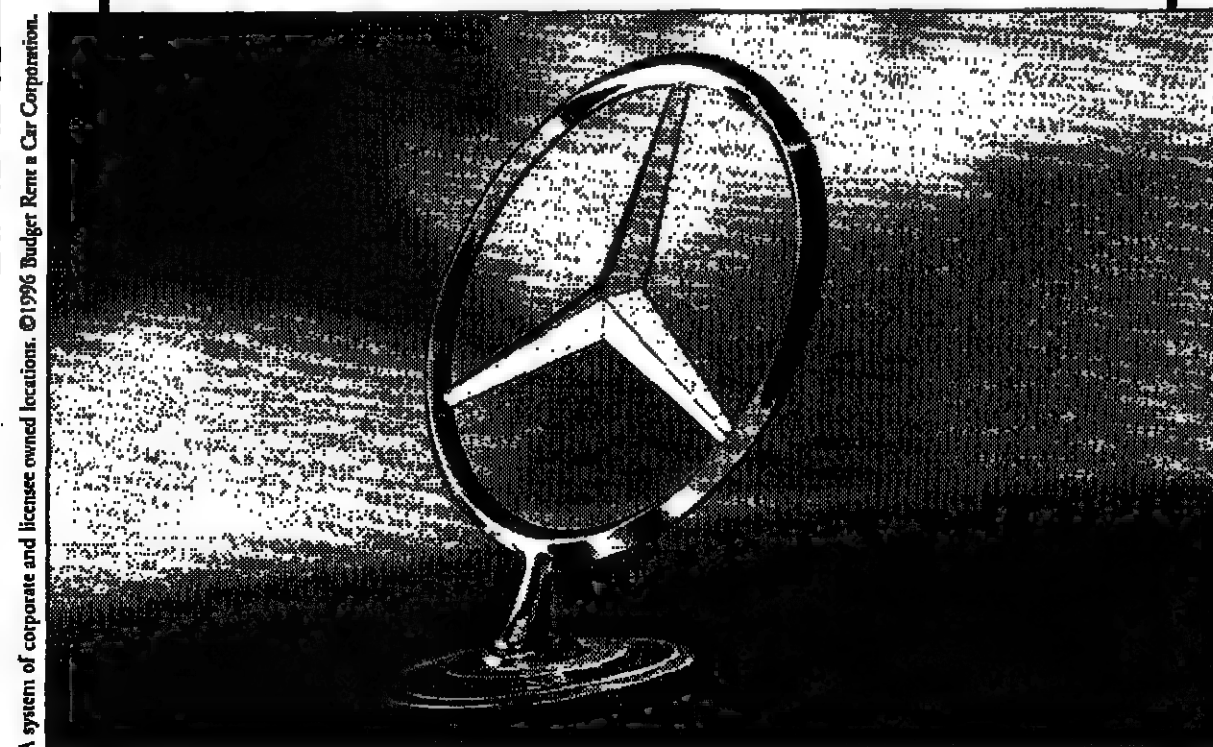
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President's cry of 'four more years' has hollow ring as second-term pitfalls lie in wait

Sour taste to fruits of victory

By TIM HAMES

BILL CLINTON would like to portray victory as some sort of positive mandate, but that claim is unlikely to be widely accepted. The re-election of a sitting President is seen by the press, public and politicians as simply a reaffirmation of the status quo, not a call for policy innovation.

Even if the country were more receptive, second-term Administrations rarely have much of an agenda to advance. Most of their grand schemes have been tried and rejected by Congress during the first term. A combination of intellectual exhaustion and reluctant recognition of their limited role in the American political system takes hold. Incremental ideas replace panoramic programmes.

The Clinton campaign has shown all the hallmarks of this trend. In 1992 the energetic Arkansas Governor promised a new economic programme based on \$220 billion (\$134 billion) of new investment in high-technology infrastructure, a complete overhaul of the healthcare industry, and a fundamental redesign of the welfare system.

The first two aspirations fell apart in the hands of a Congress in which his own Democratic Party held the majority. The final issue was captured by the Republican Congress which obliged him to accept a much more conservative blueprint. This year the rider, possibly wiser, Mr Clinton has backed a modest cut in middle-class taxes, and a set of small and notably inexpensive schemes to promote educational achievement.

Re-election provides an illusion of continuity. In practice, at least two-thirds of the Clinton Cabinet and senior White House staff will quit over the next few months, many of them to write memoirs that will claim credit for initiatives the President wants the world to believe that he alone undertook, and offer embarrassing insights and revelations. Their former employer in the White House, meanwhile, will spend most of next year constructing what is virtually a new Government that will then face a learning curve.

Other powerbrokers in Washington will view the President in a new light. While Mr Clinton may not have to fear public opinion, the politicians with whom he must deal remain close to the electorate. For them, Mr Clinton's inability to seek office again means he cannot use the threat of his job-winning prowess as a bargaining chip in negotiations. Slowly, but surely, the dreaded phrase "I am duck" will fill the airwaves.

This will be especially true after the midterm elections of 1998. Precedent suggests they will go against the party of a President serving his sixth year in the Oval Office. Even the popular Dwight Eisenhower saw Republicans lose 47 seats in the House of Representatives in 1958. The much-loved Ronald Reagan could not prevent the Republicans losing control of the Senate in 1986.

Well before that point, Washington's attention will drift from the Clintons and towards the presidential contest in 2000. The battle between Al Gore, the Vice-President, and Richard Gephardt, House Democratic leader, will become open warfare. Republicans will wonder whether Jack Kemp has done enough in this election to become the front runner for next time or, alternatively, whether Colin Powell might be tempted into the fray.

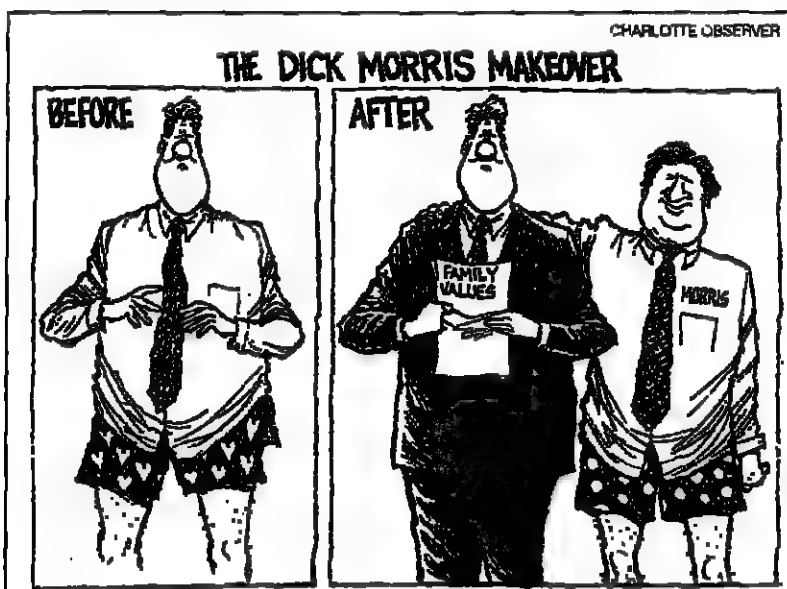
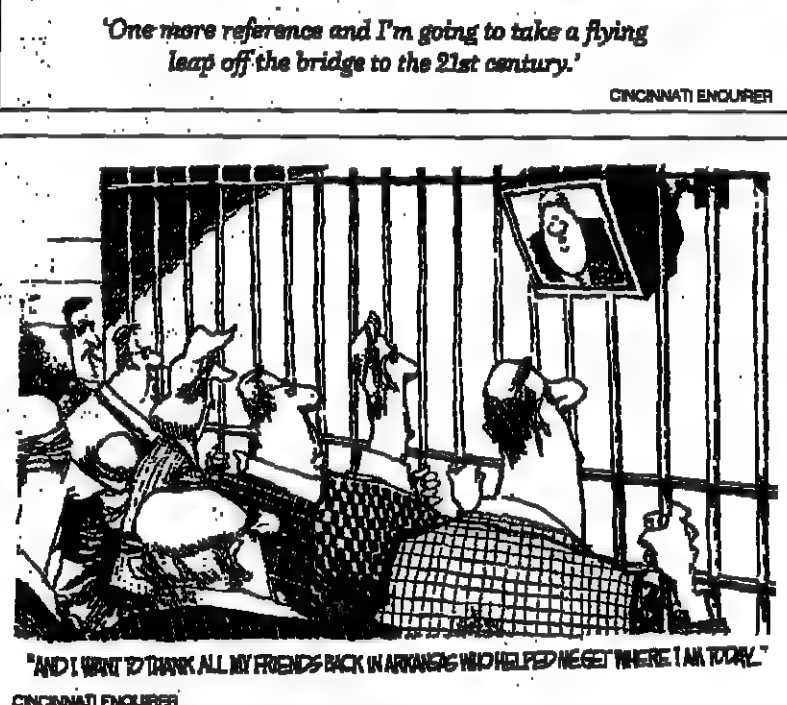
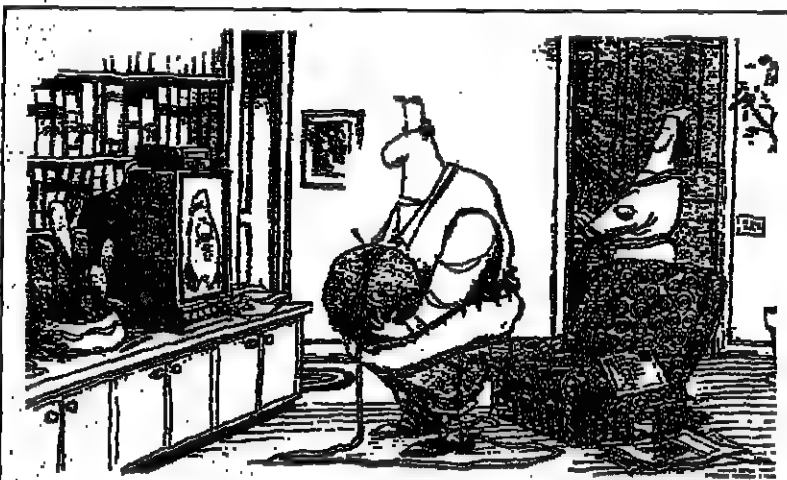
In short, a second-term President's lot is rarely a happy one. Even Franklin Roosevelt, who triumphed in 1936 with the greatest landslide in American history, suffered an unconstructive period before the onset of the Second World War gave his presidency new purpose.

Small wonder that most Presidents withdraw from the struggle at home and put their energies into foreign policy in a drive to write their own place in history. Bill Clinton, despite his limited activism in international matters so far, will surely do the same.

If all this seems distinctly downbeat, there are many in the Democratic Party who fear much worse — that assorted scandals that have long stalked this Administration, now supplemented by the dealings undertaken by Democrats engaged in fundraising from Asian businessmen, will obliterate all other issues.

The ghost of the Arkansas victory feast is Richard Nixon. In 1972 he was re-elected by a huge margin but failed to have any serious effect on the congressional elections, leaving his opponents in control of Capitol Hill. As the Watergate affair unravelled, he was driven to resignation under threat of impeachment.

The nightmare for this President is history repeating itself. If so, "four more years" may come to sound less like a campaign rallying cry and more like a plea bargain.



QUOTES

'I'll be another Reagan'

"If that's what you want, I'll be another Ronald Reagan"

— Bob Dole, seeking the Republican nomination

"They're quaking in their boots in Washington about what's going on here. They hear the peasants over the hill. The knights and the barons are riding into the castle. They're raising the drawbridge because the peasants are arming themselves with pitchforks"

— Pat Buchanan, before winning the New Hampshire Republican primary

"Such a life requires a calling that I do not yet hear and for me to pretend otherwise would not be honest to myself. It would not be honest to the American people... I cannot go forward"

— General Colin Powell refusing to run

"My time to leave this office has come, and I will seek the presidency with nothing to fall back on but the judgment of the people and nowhere to go but the White House or home"

— Dole on quitting the Senate

"Age has its advantages. Let me be a bridge to a time of tranquility, faith and confidence in action. To those who say it was never so, that America has not been better, I say you're wrong... I was there"

— Dole at the Republican convention

"The real choice is about whether we will build a bridge to the future or a bridge to the past, about whether we believe our best days are still out there... about whether we want a country of people working together or one where you're on your own"

— Bill Clinton addressing the Democratic convention

Bungled Gingrich 'revolution' bought Comeback Kid another return ticket

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DURING four torrid years Bill Clinton, the self-styled Comeback Kid, has survived Whitewater, a sexual harassment lawsuit, adultery charges, Travelgate, Fleegate and most recently the row over campaign contributions.

Mr Clinton and three of his Cabinet secretaries have been investigated by special prosecutors. His White House has probably received more subpoenas than any other. His wife, Hillary, was the

first First Lady compelled to appear before a federal grand jury. Mr Clinton's deputy, White House counsel Vincent Foster, committed suicide. His Associate Attorney-General, another Arkansas man named Webster Hubbell, went to jail. His chief strategist, Dick Morris, resigned over an affair with a prostitute, and his former Whitewater business partners were convicted. His promised overhaul of America's healthcare system was a fiasco. He botched major appointments, and badly misjudged popular sentiment by

trying to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. Eighteen US Marines needlessly died in Somalia, and America watched on television as triumphant Somali thugs dragged one of the corpses through Mogadishu.

In November 1994 voters vented their anger by ending 40 years of Democratic rule on Capitol Hill. The media crowned Newt Gingrich America's de facto "President" and Mr Clinton was left pathetically protesting his relevance — "I don't consider myself a titular head of state". But, in fact, the

Republicans' capture of Congress proved his salvation.

Mr Gingrich and his followers misinterpreted their victory as a mandate for "revolution". They produced a plan to balance the budget by slashing social spending, then shut down the Government to force Mr Clinton's compliance. He refused, shrewdly betting that while Americans hated government in the abstract they loved its services.

The 1992 candidate of "change" recast himself as a bulwark against Republican "extremism"

and his recovery began. He brilliantly articulated the nation's grief after the Oklahoma bombing. He skillfully averted a debilitating challenge for the Democratic nomination. He enjoyed a huge break when Colin Powell chose not to run, and when Bob Dole tacked rightwards to win the Republican nomination, Mr Clinton seized the centre ground.

Under Mr Morris's tutelage he purloined all that was popular from the Republicans' agenda and demonised the rest. He declared "the era of big government over",

He offered a mitigated plan for balancing the budget. Knowing his fellow Democrats had nowhere else to go, he cynically signed a Republican welfare Bill despite administration predictions that it would throw a million children into poverty. As the campaign advanced he unveiled family-friendly initiatives in support of television V-chips, school uniforms and constraints on the tobacco industry, but what really fuelled his drive for re-election was America's sizzling economy. Mr Clinton's 1993 budget, which raised

taxes and cut spending by \$500 billion, certainly contributed to this, but the prudent monetary policies of Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, were equally important.

Mr Clinton was hardly being swept home last night on a wave of popular affection. Voters knew he was no saint, but evidently considered competence more important than character. What remains to be seen is whether, as the Republicans now predict, the scandals this Teflon President outran in his first term will trip him in his second.

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RALPH LAUREN: a hint of Africa with smart tailoring and understated glamour

NEW YORK

Iain R. Webb,
fashion
journalist of
the year, on
American style

If you are looking for a message for spring/summer 1997 from New York Fashion Week, the programme notes for the Ghost show pretty much summed it up: "This season is about femininity, beauty and simplicity."

Next year will be the summer of the pretty dress and there aren't many who make a pretty dress better than Tanya Sarne of Ghost. She had little puffed-sleeved dresses with high waistlines fit for a Jane Austen heroine, slip dresses with droopy necklines and one-shouldered dresses with dipping asymmetric hemlines.

Calvin Klein cleverly offered a little black dress for women who want to wear colour but would be scared by his handkerchief-hemline dress in scarlet and shocking pink stretch chiffon. He simply layered a gauzy black dress over one in ultraviolet, the colour peeking out at the draped neckline and pointed hem. Klein also showed a strapless dress that wrapped around the body.

This silhouette was also favoured by Michael Kors who continued to pare down the wardrobe. Jersey boob-tubes were elongated into



MIU MIU: pure lines



CALVIN KLEIN: bright



ANNA SUI: frills and ruffles



MICHAEL KORS: silhouette in red

dresses, while skin-tight leggings (cropped at the calf) were worn with fitted jackets and roomy tunics. Kors kept to a palette of black, white and red highlighted with a wonderful colour called suntan.

Ralph Lauren and Richard Tyler showed exquisite dresses in skin-tone shades — nude, blush, bronze and gold. Tyler was in a romantic mood with paneled camisole dresses in georgette, organdie and tulle, sometimes shown with mil-

itary-style jackets edged with pleated frills. Lauren looked to Africa and the Masai for inspiration, mixing tailored safari jackets (even worn with a beaded evening dress) with soft, sarong-style dresses in linen, knit and suede. Each collection was highlighted with stabs of bold red.

Among the dreadful hippy-chic Titania fairy-tale dresses and big girls' blouses (worn by men) at Anna Sui there were some pretty camisole tops and

ruffled organdie peasant dresses. Miu Miu continued the underwear theme with pure white lingerie looks shown alongside chunky rib navy sweaters and jersey jackets worn with little knickers or long full skirts in sailcloth cotton. Best at Isaac Mizrahi was a fantailed slip dress in white lace.

Donna Karan managed to balance perfectly the new spirit of sensuality with the demands of dressing the modern

woman day-to-day. Eastern influences permeated the collection — satin devore evening dresses were artfully draped while matt and sheer jersey tops were half-hidden under mannish jackets. Leather was worn next to the filiciest se-through pieces. The collection, shown in a season, lacking the dynamic of recent showings.

Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE/
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CALVIN KLEIN: black



GHOST: best dresses



MICHAEL KORS: tube



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The end of a dream

Benazir Bhutto has been sacked as Pakistan's Prime Minister again. Victoria Schofield, a close friend, spoke to her

I have always found it hard to say goodbye to Benazir Bhutto. Ever since one of my first goodbyes after we both left Oxford in 1977, I have never known what new direction her life would take. On that occasion, instead of embarking on a career in Pakistan's Foreign Service, she found herself campaigning for her father's life after he had been deposed by General Zia ul Haq in a military coup d'état in July 1977. More painful was saying goodbye when the military authorities had permitted me to visit her in a remote police camp just days before her father was executed. As always, her concern for my safety rather than hers was evident. "Take good care of yourself," she said, as I hugged her goodbye, not realising that I would not see her again for five years. Since then, I have witnessed her political career fluctuate from periods in prison, house arrest, exile, to being elected Prime Minister, dismissed, and then becoming Prime Minister again.

When I went to say goodbye to her, early one damp Sunday morning three weeks ago at Claridges hotel, my heart was particularly heavy. She was returning to Pakistan after a stopover in London, having addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. We had spent a quiet day, discussing the problems she faced at home, most significantly how President Leghari, who had been such a staunch supporter and friend for so many years, had changed his stance. She also insisted that she had no intention of resigning under pressure. "I intend to complete my term of office until the next elections, scheduled for 1998," she told me confidently. After



Benazir Bhutto's dismissal has cut short her dream of fulfilling her father's plans to build Pakistan into a country "where deserts bloom"

her last dismissal in August 1990, I realised how much it meant to her to remain as Prime Minister and not quit politics and lead a more comfortable life abroad. There was a striking parallel between her commitment and that of her father who, when warned by a friend of the impending charges against him, had stated: "You leave if you want to, but this is my home, and I am not going anywhere."

Yet I still felt uneasy. The strain under which she was working seemed intolerable and the price she paid for attempting to lead Pakistan into the 21st century was high. We had talked frequently of the threats to her personal safety, but this seemed even

'It means an end to the game. I know where I stand'

more pronounced after her brother, Murtaza's, death in a police shooting in Karachi in September. "It is an eerie feeling when you are Prime Minister and you know there are people out there who can shoot your own brother."

At home the cost was also great. I had seen how hard she

worked, with never enough time to spend with her three young children, trying to fulfil a role as a politician, a wife and a mother. There were no relaxed summer holidays with her family, as many other political figures manage to take when they disappear for a couple of weeks each year.

Also, she was still fighting the prejudices of a male-orientated society where Pakistan's small but vociferous orthodox Muslim community would still prefer to see women remain at home. Part of the rivalry between herself and her brother was based on the assumption that Murtaza should have inherited their father's mantle.

And then there were the enemies she had made. Some-

one had told me that her father had made personal enemies, not political ones. It had not taken me long to realise how deeply personal every political relationship is and therefore how much rivalry there can be, which, combined with jealousy, can turn to hatred.

Disappointed though Benazir may be, when I spoke to her yesterday evening after she had been kept, as she put it, "incommunicado" all day, she said she was relieved. "It means an end to the cat-and-mouse game of whether or not I was going to be dismissed. Now at least I know where I stand."

After she is released from the Prime Minister's house

she will probably return to her Karachi home. She expressed anxiety about her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who was taken from the State Governor's house in Lahore on Monday. When we spoke, no charge had been filed against him. "My husband has been kidnapped and taken to an unknown place."

She remains defiant. Although her dismissal has cut short her dream of fulfilling her father's plans to build Pakistan into a country "where deserts bloom", I am convinced that the personal fortitude and courage that have been the hallmark of her struggle for nearly 20 years will carry her through. Like her father she is not made of "the wood that burns easily".

POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

Blood and sand

THE climatic conditions in which a soldier has to fight often determine the outcome. Field-Marshal Earl Wavell wrote to Sir Basil Liddell Hart: "If I had time and anything like your ability to study war, I think I should concentrate almost entirely on the 'actualities' of war — the effects of tiredness, hunger, fear, lack of sleep, weather ... The principles of strategy and tactics and the logistics of war are really absurdly simple: it is the actualities that make war so complicated and so difficult."

In the First World War, rain, mud and the freezing cold totally overwhelmed the strategy of the generals, snug in their chateaux behind the lines. The ordinary soldiers left descriptions of the appalling conditions which made not just fighting, but existence, too, unendurable. In 1917, Henri Barbusse wrote: "Dampness

rusts men like rifles, more slowly but more deeply." In the Second World War, soldiers had to adapt to campaigns in the desert and in the jungle. The Khamsin, a wind that blows from the Sahara, whips up stinging sandstorms, which make it impossible for men to fight and fouts up vehicles and guns. In the Far East, troops had to cope with insects and other creatures and the general swampy, eerie uncertainty of the jungle.

This poem, *Sand*, is by John Jarmain who was killed in the Western desert in 1942. It shows that there are fine Second World War poets, many of whom had no especially privileged upbringing but who, finding themselves caught up in the great drama of war, discovered poetry as a means of recording their experiences and voicing their emotions.

KENNETH BAKER

JOHN JARMAIN

Sand

We have seen sand frothing like the sea
About our wheels, and in our wake
Clouds rolling yellow and opaque,
Thick-smoking from the ground;
Wrapped in the dust from sun and sky
Without a mark to guide them by
Men drove alone unseeing in the cloud,
Peering to find a track, to find a way.
With eyes stung red, clown-faces coated grey,
Then with sore lips we cursed the sand,
Cursed this sullen gritty land
- Cursed and dragged on our blind and clogging way.

We have felt the fevered Khamsin blow
Which whips the desert into sting and spite
Of dry-sand driving rain (the only rain)
The parched and dusty sand-lands know.
The hot dry driven sand; the desert floor
Whipped by the wind drives needles in the air
Which pricked our eyelids blind; and in a night,
Sifting the drifted sandhill grain by grain,
Covers our shallow tracks, our laboured road,
Makes false the maps we made with such slow care.

And we have seen wonders, spinning towers of sand
- Moving pillars of cloud by day -
Which passed and twitched our tents away;
Lakes where no water was, and in the sky
Grey shimmering palms. We have learned the sun and stars
And new simplicities, living by our cars
In wastes without one tree or living thing.

Where the flat horizon's level ring
Is equal everywhere without a change.

Yet sand has been kind for us to lie at ease,
Its soft-dug walls have sheltered and made a shield
From fear and danger, and the chilly night.
And as we quit this bare unlovely land,
Strangely again see houses, hills, and trees,
We will remember older things than these,
Indigo skies pricked out with brilliant light,
The smooth unshadowed candour of the sand.

The Faber Book of War Poetry is available to readers of *The Times* at the special reduced price of £17, a saving of £3 off the publisher's price. To order, call The Times Bookshop on 0345 660916

Why do we so love to see our golden boys bite the dust?

To an ordinary member of the reading (and voting) public, it comes as no surprise that Sir Nicholas Scott has at last exhausted the patience of his constituency party. But what was astonishing was to come across, in accounts of his demise, a quote from *Time* magazine from the 1960s, dipping him as a future leader.

Now, his fall from grace is not so spectacular to make this anything other than the smallest irony, but perhaps there is a lesson in it all the same. As Cyril Connolly, the patron saint of thwarted ambition, ruefully, and somewhat resentfully wrote in *Enemies of Promise*: "Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first call promising."

There are other examples of golden boys who come to dust — Peter Jay springs to mind here — and there is something so particularly English about the pleasure with which their decline is recorded. But there was also something so very English (and maybe an Englishness which has not exact-

ly gone but certainly no longer finds favour) about the bright, burnished hope which they were seen to represent in the first place.

These were men born to power, educated to shine; they might have been forgiven for seeing achievement as a birthright. We now shrink from the exercising of such class prerogatives: the expression "ris- ing without trace" was not coined for John Major, but was so brilliantly borrowed it might just as well have been.

And Tony Blair, for all the buzzing light that now is seen to surround him, comes to his charismatic stature only lately. It's not only that we no longer expect our politicians to show promise from an early age, but that we're suspicious of it for these days it smacks to us of an arrogance, an easy assumption of power before we have judged it to be earned.

Helena Bonham Carter was ridiculed recently when she was reported (out of context) as saying that plain, working class women get an easier ride than posh, pretty ones. I think it is obvious that if any of us were given the choice, we would prefer to be one of the haves rather than the have-nots: the whining got-it-all

brigade (to which, incidentally, Bonham Carter robustly does not belong) are quite rightly going to arouse more sympathy. And yet, to grow up bearing the burdens of everyone's hopes and expectations is bound to be difficult. More those who are constantly being told that great

things are expected of them are mystified themselves when these great things fail to materialise. It is a vulgar truism, but in order to succeed you need to be hungry for it. Life is just not organised any more for those born to power to slip effortlessly into it. Of all my friends at Oxford, it is mostly those who had it easy, financially at any rate, and who didn't need to work who have floundered. It's not just the money: those who have been brought up believing that they only have to express a wish to have it granted always end up the most disappointed. "I feel I am being punished with rewards," says Carrie

Fisher's heroine and alter ego in *Postcards from the Edge*.

And I rather feel sorry for people who have had idyllically happy childhoods — all one glorious pre-war summer day, with the sun always shining in that cloudless blindingly azure sky. How can life ever be so won-

derful again? I was not temperamentally suited to childhood and am happy in the knowledge that life now has to be better than that. Adulthood is a reward for those of us who never thought we'd survive childhood; but for those who exulted in theirs, it is a punishment. Life's mean-spirited revenge.

It is undeniably true, though, that there is something in the national psyche that makes us will the failure of those apparently doomed to succeed. Put crudely, it is part of the "who does he think he is?" syndrome, when any talent, merit or ambition is greeted as a sure sign of the person's venality and preten-



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■ Men of vision, perhaps, but they should be watched

Well, well, well. A well for each of them, and well-deserved, at that. For who would have thought it? After hundreds of speeches, articles, interviews, broadcasts, conferences and manifestos, after thousands of inconclusive hours filled with millions of ambiguous words, none of which left any of us any the wiser about where any of them definitively stood, the three party leaders suddenly, on Sunday, came out and stood there. They threw caution to the winds: they showed their hands; they nailed their colours to the mast. They gave us, in short, from where they stood, their vision of the Britain for which they will soon be standing.

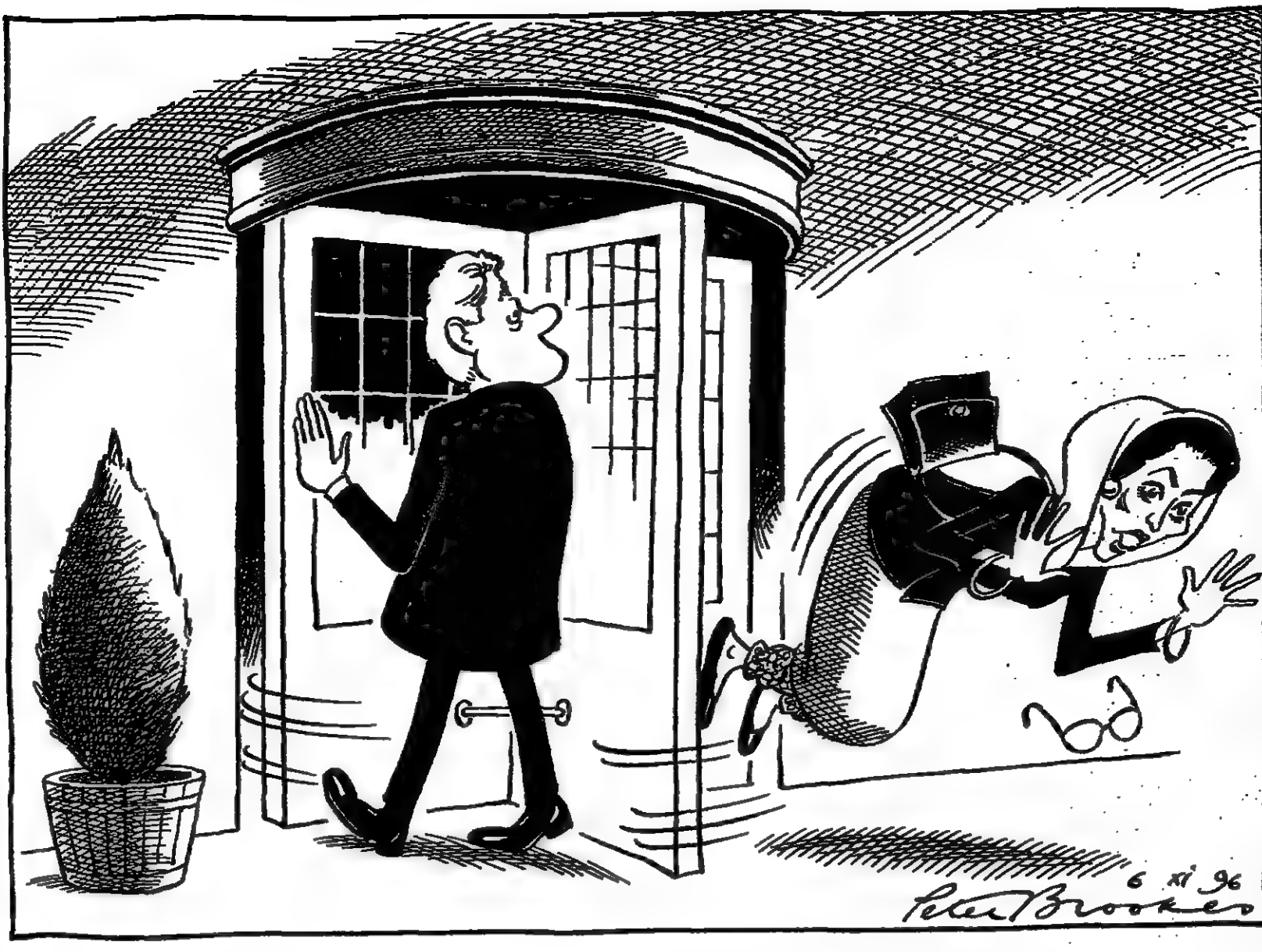
In very short. It took them a mere sentence each, cobbled in response to a request, during the weekend celebrations of television's Diamond Jubilee, for their favourite television moments, but it told us, at long last, all we needed to know.

Look first at what John Major most liked looking at. His choices were *The Forsyte Saga*, *The Pallisers* and *I, Claudius*. Galsworthy, Trollope and Graves: could anything be more more solid and reliable? They sound like a long-established firm of family solicitors. John loves them. Let us spool back a quarter of a century, and watch John watching them: he sits in a comfy fireside armchair, uncut moquette, perhaps, piped in maroon, and the fire it is beside exudes so rich a Magical glow from its reassuringly mechanical flicker that the very froth on his Horlicks is tinted to a cheery pink. Very agreeable. Oh yes. And in perfect concord with the incandescent screen before him slipped feet, where that nice Mr Plantagenet Palliser is deservedly plodding towards his great country's premiership. Beyond the drawn curtains, no noise disturbs this blissful scene, no mugger's fleeing hobnails, no squeal of hot-wired joyrider, no bang of terrorist Semtex, no stutter of PC Dixon's Heckler & Koch as a mob of homicidal truants bears down upon him through the smoke belching from their torched primary. There is naught but the reassuring squeak of a matron's Rudge as she pedals home from her wonderfully run cottage hospital towards her evening beaker of warm milk stout. Can anyone doubt that this is the Britain Mr Major wants?

But what of Master Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, for that is what he still is, in 1966? See, he is turning joyous cartwheels on the family Axiomator, not because he cannot wait to start at Fette's next term — new Labour, new school — but because he cannot wait for the final whistle. He thinks it's all over. It is now: for, even as the lad spins, Geoff Hurst slots in England's fourth, and the World Cup is ours. Thirty years on, this remains Tony's greatest television experience. Do we know why? No question. It is the supreme moment of cross-cultural national unification, instantaneously and simultaneously abolishing disparities of class, wealth, gender, race, age and everything else, without all the dreadful headache of having to sit down and work out how to do it. Magic.

And what of Paddy Ashdown? What was the Lib-Dem leader's best programme of all? *Monty Python's Flying Circus*? *Fawlty Towers*? *Men Behaving Badly*? Not even close. Unhappily, jaw set, eyes steely, Paddy plumped for the newsworld of Nelson Mandela getting out of jail free. What a very impressive choice, you will cry, how typical of the man, and you are absolutely right on both counts: because of all the thousands of hours of television from which he might have made his choice, he was able, with that instant decisiveness for which he is a byword, to select the one programme which featured the triumph of a man who, after a lifetime of languishing wretchedly in political powerlessness, finally emerged to become his country's leader as the result of a change in the electoral system.

I fancy that, having heard all this, few of us now remain in much doubt about how to vote next year. However sorry we may be for the red-eyed spin-doctors forced to watch a million miles of videotape in order to come up with what they think we ought to hear, I have to tell them that the odds on Her Majesty's hand being kissed by Screaming Lord Sutch have just grown considerably shorter. Whatever he watches.



The party of humbug

Tony Blair's new social morality will undermine the family, says Roger Scruton

Look at Labour proposals in almost any area which interests the rising middle classes — the economy, education, welfare, law and order — and you will find a peculiar tension between ends and means. The rhetoric promises stability, old-fashioned decency, responsibility and standards. But the measures are egalitarian, favouring the "victim", the rebel, and the deviant against the world of bourgeois respectability.

Matters are no different when it comes to the issue of the moment — morality. Writing on this page two days ago, Tony Blair affirmed the commitment of his party to moral order. However, like everything that Mr Blair promises, this moral order is to be a "new" one. "The idea of a new social morality," he writes, "is not a lurch into nostalgia or Victorian hypocrisy. We do not want a return to the old prejudices about sex, sexuality or the role of women. Neither do we believe that supporting the family means attacking lone parents, the vast bulk of whom have endured the pain of divorce and separation."

Those words should be pondered, since they show the built-in flaw in Labour's attempt to portray itself as the champion of moral values. For values are never new: they are the legacy of civilisation, and bring order and peace to our lives only because we endow them with authority. The Victorians may have been hypocrites, but they knew that murder, theft, rape and fraud are wrong always and absolutely. They also knew that talk of a "social" morality — as though morality could be constantly renegotiated to meet changing social realities — is pure humbug. Morality is addressed to the individual, in the second person singular that we know from the Ten Commandments. And in fundamental matters it goes on saying what it has always said.

The Victorians also knew that the ability to receive and obey moral imperatives depends upon an orderly and disciplined life. Sexual morality was not, for them, the marginal issue that it seems to be for Mr Blair. It was absolutely central — and it remains central today. A world of sexual promiscuity, of infidelity, adultery and sexual deviance, in which all is permitted save paedophilia and incest, and in which people are beginning to wonder why those are not permitted too, since children have lost their innocence and the only excitement lies in the last few

forbidden things — such a world is precisely the one against which the ordinary conscience is now in revolt. The question we have to ask is whether New Labour speaks for the ordinary conscience, or whether this appeal to morality is not also an exercise in hypocrisy.

The answer is to be found in Mr Blair's own words. New Labour wishes to be seen by the middle-class voter as the party of family values. But it also

rejects the sexual morality which, to any impartial reader of human history, has been the mainstay of family life. New Labour also promises a "Minister for Women", with a feminist brief, who will install "gender issues" at the heart of the Brave New World. Which is the true Labour Party — the one that is poaching Tory territory in pursuit of disillusioned people with old-fashioned values, or the one with the radical programme? For there is a conflict between these two which goes to the very heart of our modern condition. And I am willing to bet that when it comes to policy, the feminist agenda will triumph over the traditional home.

When it comes to policy, feminism will triumph over the home

ing of unmarried mothers have together brought about a condition in which the young woman of average abilities would be ill-advised to marry, and will find a more reliable father to her children at the post office counter than in the home. Legislation driven by egalitarian prejudice erodes the motive to marry or to stay married when the strains begin. It is now assumed that women must have equal access to the jobs traditionally performed by men. And because women are more obedient than men, many employers prefer them. This is the root cause of male unemployment — not that there are insufficient jobs, for there are more jobs than adult couples, but that the job market is flooded by women. Men, deprived of their traditional status as provider and protector, gain little self-esteem from marriage, and begin to resent the loss of their freedom. Besides, the State will look after abandoned children, and life is too short to worry about such trifles.

Feminism has done nothing to redress this situation. On the contrary, by encouraging women to believe that their principal duty is to affirm themselves in the public world, and to compete with men on equal terms, feminism destroys the feelings on which family life depends. It portrays the domestic sphere as one of weakness and timidity, requires men to play an equal part in running the home and rearing children, and is suspicious of motherhood as an obstacle to a fulfilling career. Feminists scorn the old sexual morality, which enabled a man to assert exclusive rights over the woman whom he chose; they regard marriage as an arbitrary contract which can always be broken when the woman has had enough of it; they regard sex itself — or the peculiar metaphysical version of it which they know as "gender" — as an artefact, which can be fashioned and refashioned at will. To true feminists there is nothing wrong with

homosexual marriages, and many would like to see a world in which men are kept in being only as a kind of morose sperm-bank with which to provide children to the lesbian couples weak enough to require this route to happiness. To the true feminist, children are not an end but a means, and it has become part of radical feminism to encourage adoption by homosexual or one-parent "families" in order to give to those who defy the bourgeois pieties an equal chance to play with people younger than themselves.

Look at the activities of Labour town councils and you will see the mark of those feminist ideas, just as you can see them in Mr Blair's dismissal of the traditional "role of women". And it is these ideas, rather than the old-fashioned decency, that will be in the driving seat when the "Minister for Women" comes to power. It could be that the triumph of feminism is inevitable. When marriage loses its sacramental quality, the distinction between the marketplace and the hearth breaks down, and with it the centuries-old distinction of the masculine and the feminine, upon which the habit of marital fidelity depends. Nevertheless, we should be serious about the matter. If the family is no longer with us, we must think hard about how to replace it. For the family had a function. It ensured that when people reproduced, they also reproduced their moral values and their culture. There is much fiery rhetoric in modern feminism, but very little thought for the future. And if people have a soft spot for a politician who praises family values, it is because they know that the future is safe only in the hands of those who respect the past.

Mr Blair is a family man, happily married and with children at good middle-class schools. He is a Christian who no doubt does his best to live by the exacting moral code which is and remains the only moral code that our civilisation has discovered. But he leads a party full of people who grew up in the Sixties, became accustomed to sexual licence and the quick fix, and which has replaced the harsh discipline of moral obedience with sentimental waffle on behalf of the underdog. Mr Blair's words reveal clearly that Labour is as much given as ever it was to taxing the respectable to reward the feckless. Call this "a new social morality" if you like. But notice how effectively it undermines our moral habits.

Health in the service of wealth

Tessa Jowell says the NHS is about ethos, not structures

In my local chemist the other day, I stood behind an elderly man who was trying to buy a large gauze dressing. He told the pharmacist he had been in hospital the day before, having an operation. They didn't give him any bandage, so he had to buy his own. "They're running a business these days," remarked the pharmacist. "They have to make a profit. They don't give dressings to take home any more."

That sums up today's National Health Service, wrenched from its founding principles by this Government. Fifty years ago, Nye Bevan told the House of Commons that "a person ought to be able to receive medical and hospital help without being involved in financial anxiety". He wanted everyone to have the treatment and care they needed, wherever they lived, whatever their means. Now the talk is all of balance sheets and business plans as healthcare is traded in the Tories' marketplace.

Hospitals compete with each other for business. One surgeon recently observed that this means that hospitals are like "city states at war with each other". This "war" is a terrible extravagance, as more and more hospitals sink into debt, unable to meet their patients' needs. Doctors and nurses come into the health service to treat the sick and find themselves dancing to the accountants' tune. Patients keenly sense the shift of ethos, from a public service to a competitive market trading in increasingly threadbare goods. The Government has grudgingly found additional money for next year's health budget but still the service predicts a crisis this winter.

We have had a decade of permanent revolution in the health service. During that time, political debate has become an interminable and ultimately futile argument about structure and organisation. The only important test of the service's structure is whether it delivers patient-centred care that is demonstrably effective and which uses resources efficiently.

It is time to move on. Our health service faces another decade of rapid change, this time driven by science and technology. Bio-genetics, information technology and interactive media will transform healthcare. So it is all the more vital to be clear about our aims. What do we want from the National Health Service? How can its basic principles be adapted to the challenges of the future?

When we stop arguing about structure and start asking questions such as these, we can see that there is a world of difference between the two main parties.

The Conservatives believe that the health service should be run by competition. They often talk as if they care about the NHS, but in practice they couldn't care less about equity — the idea that everyone has a right to healthcare appropriate to their needs. They are perfectly prepared to see the NHS become a residual service only for those who have no private insurance. Uncertainty about the dependability of the health service is driving increasing numbers of people to pay twice for their healthcare: once through taxation and then again through private insurance.

Labour believes that healthcare cannot be reduced to a commodity. It is a social good, to be shared by all of us. It is part of the fabric that binds us together and makes us one nation. So the NHS must be inclusive. It must be available to everyone, on an equal basis and used by everyone because it is the best. That calls for co-operation, not competition; for shared, long-term objectives, not quick fixes, and for relationships built on trust, not merely enforced by contract.

To quote Bevan again, we must "promise every citizen of this country the same standard of service". Nowadays, the treatment you receive may depend on where you live more than on what you need. We must end the geographic lottery in healthcare and concentrate our efforts on spreading high quality care across the country.

We want the NHS to be judged for effectiveness, not just efficiency. Bashing managers is good sport for some, but managers are only a waste of resources if they spend their time on wasteful tasks. Huge amounts of time and money are tied up policing contracts between different units within the NHS. To what end? There is no evidence that standards have improved, despite the best attempts of ministers to harass a disbelieving public with statistics that bear no relation to the patients' experience of the health service. All this has a devastating effect on the morale of staff nurses and doctors, who are leaving the NHS in unprecedented numbers.

Looking to the future, we need an NHS which can adapt readily and grasp new opportunities offered by the coming technological revolution. That means investing first and foremost in human resources, in people and skills. We cannot afford to be locked into the past. We must free ourselves from arguments about structure, and concentrate on rebuilding public confidence. People have learnt to fear change because their experience tells them that change is always for the worst. They will start to trust the NHS when they can see that it is run for patients, not profit, and that change can offer more and better healthcare.

The author is the Shadow Minister for Health.

Jack it in

AS the results of the American elections become clear today, casting begins in London and Dublin for what promises to be one of the most grisly musicals of the modern age. Jack, based on the life of John F. Kennedy, is to open in Dublin next spring. The producers hope that JFK's sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, America's Ambassador to Ireland, will attend.

Their show opens with an eager young JFK preparing to go to college with a ditty called *Harvard* and then musing on his relationship with his father in a piece entitled *I'm not Joe* — a subtle reference to his dead older brother. Mrs Kennedy Smith saw part of the show when it was still being written, but was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Jack then meets Jackie and sings *Bouvier* before joining his wife for a duet, *True Love*. It is hoped the show will follow the success of other political musicals such as *Evita*.

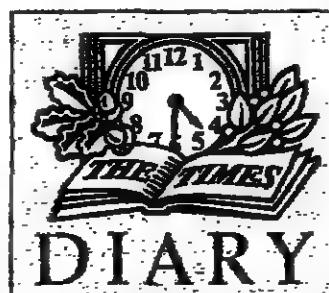
Reports that there was to be a song called *Dallas* before Kennedy's assassination were keenly denied by Will Holt, one of the authors, who was in California packing for his trip to London. "We're not that insensi-

tive," he says. "You really think we'd have a song that goes 'Hello, hello, we're going to be assassinated?' Get real."

Grinding out pamphlets from his Knightsbridge souk, Mohamed Al Fayed, the Egyptian chairman of Harrods, is planning to expand. His publishing empire — more of a principality at the moment with Punch as its star title — is now funding The Christian



"Nick Scott has started his fightback, I see"



Democrat, an anti-abortion publication with David Alton, MP, at the helm. "Mr Al Fayed is a family man and thinks life is sacred," says a spokesman. "He is a Muslim with a pluralist approach."

Chin chin

FOR all those Americans feeling a little green about the prospect of four more years of President Clinton, a word of advice from Robert Bork, the conservative jurist and former nominee for the American Supreme Court.

Writing in *The National Review* under the headline "Ambrosia and Amnesia", Bork recommends the "one drink that conveys conservative correctness, spreads warmth and courage throughout one's soul, and has the additional merit of being the most delicious cocktail ever invented: the dry Martini."

After describing how to make the perfect Martini — gin, never vodka, 8:1 ratio of gin to Martini, and never, ever with an olive — Bork writes: "This cocktail is not merely the best means of restoring the tissues, as Bertie Wooster put it, but also the best means of restoring one's sanity and sense of humour after the carnage of the '96 election."

Arriving on the set of his new film in Ireland, Pierce Brosnan, the modern 007, landed his producers with a problem: what do do about his deep, leathery tan. He had just been working under the



Pierce Brosnan: too tanned

unforgiving sun of the Arizona desert. For his new role, however, the film-makers wanted some of Brosnan's soulful, wan Irishness, rather than a saddle-bag with eyes. "Pierce doesn't look Irish," says the producer, Beau St Clair. "We'll just have to use a lot of white make-up."

Young stir

A LESSON for preening socialites who invite the press to their wedding comes from Antony Worrall-Thompson, chef and bauer of the lumbering restaurant critic Michael Winner.

For his marriage ceremony to his wife Jay earlier this year, W-T sold exclusive photographic rights to OK!, a sort of *Thelma* magazine, concerned with the celebrity circuit. But he mistakenly invited the barking paparazzo Richard Young as a private guest.

Chomping on canapés this week at Mortons in Mayfair, W-T admitted that OK! is refusing to pay him because Young had grubbly sold some pictures to its rival, *Hello!*

Lawyers have been roped in to resolve the tawdry tangle. W-T assures me that OK! will be helping to pay his wedding bills.

Events in Pakistan come second in the Goldsmith household at



W-T and bride, OK?

the moment only to the imminent birth in London of Jimina's first child. Mr Jimina Goldsmith, Imran Khan, is currently out there putting the finishing touches to his political movement. With the Prime Minister under house arrest, I understand there is concern that he might not make it back in time to witness delivery of his first-born, who is due within a fortnight. I'm sure, however, that Imran — a palpable Milk Tray man — will make it somehow.

P.H.S



THE GREAT CAMPAIGNER

Cunning and resilience carried Clinton back home

An election that seemed to last an eternity has delivered the result that had been promised all year. Despite a noble last drive from Bob Dole, including a 96-hour final blitz that exhausted men half his age, Bill Clinton has secured re-election. His victory represents the triumph of persistence. Widely written off after the 1994 congressional contests, driven to the edge of irrelevance during the first 100 days of Republican control over the House of Representatives, and dogged by successive scandals throughout, he endured and emerged politically the stronger.

Although assisted by a bright economic background, Mr Clinton retained his office because he has proved an effective politician and a brilliant campaigner. His effectiveness was demonstrated by the manner in which he lured Newt Gingrich into over-extending himself during the titanic struggle over the American budget 12 months ago. That was reinforced through an audacious strategy that redefined him as a man of the Centre, adopting conservative social policy positions that Republicans had long considered their own, leaving Mr Dole struggling to respond. Four years ago Mr Clinton won the presidency promising to "reinvent government". In 1996 he won again largely by reinventing himself.

Such a move was by no means easy to execute. It worked because of Mr Clinton's uncanny ability to read the public pulse, assess the national mood, and place himself in sympathy with it. No one who has witnessed the President working a crowd at home or abroad can deny the mesmerising energy that the experience produces. He may have many flaws but the capacity to connect with ordinary citizens has overcome them in this election. Ronald Reagan's powers of public oratory earned him the title of "The Great Communicator". Mr Clinton's

powers of public understanding have made him "The Great Empathiser".

Those tempted to disregard such skills and attribute the Clinton win exclusively to economic growth or an unconvincing opponent should look deeper into American history. The Democratic Party, a vast but unstable and often incompatible coalition, has long mastered congressional elections by offering quite different types of political philosophy to suit distinctive states and districts. In presidential contests, though, where it had to present one candidate and one message, it has habitually fallen apart. From 1968 to 1992 its candidates for the top national post averaged 43 per cent of the popular vote: hardly adequate in a strongly two-party system. It is this legacy of regular failure that Mr Clinton has overcome.

Similarly, while it has been widely noted that the President is the first Democrat to win a second consecutive term since Franklin Roosevelt in 1936, it merits recognition that, of Democrats, only Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and now Mr Clinton have matched that result since 1836. Short-term explanations of his latest triumph underestimate his political achievement. Mr Clinton has fashioned a new electoral maths for presidential politics, rooted — like the old Reagan coalition — on control of California. This has finally allowed the Democrats to compensate for the loss of their old base in the South and provides a powerful legacy for his party successors.

As he savours the fruits of victory the President will have genuine regrets that his last race is over. He has fought 20 primary and general elections in the last 22 years, winning all but two of them. Whatever troubles beset him and his wife from now on, he can be guaranteed recognition as one of the greatest campaigners his country has ever produced.

THE SWORD FALLS

The Bhutto clan has played a large part in its latest downfall

On the grounds that "public faith in the integrity and honesty of the Government has disappeared", President Farooq Leghari defends his dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's Government and the dissolution of Pakistan's National Assembly. His charges include political inroads on the independence of the judiciary, failure to check the waves of "extrajudicial killings", in the country's streets and corruption, nepotism and maladministration "so extensive and widespread that the orderly functioning of Government... has become impossible".

Each of these grave criticisms has substance. Miss Bhutto has cruelly disappointed the high hopes of democratic stability, economic reform and above all, cleaner government that attended her election as Prime Minister three years ago. Instead of allying herself with the President's campaign against civil service corruption, the abuse of political patronage and the outrageous privileges of Pakistan's grasping feudal elite, she has resisted every concrete proposal to attack these evils. Faith in democracy has suffered accordingly. The President is one of the few politicians in Pakistan whose personal integrity is sufficiently unquestioned to enable him to point the finger without courting derision.

He has also acted entirely legally, even though he has used powers added to the Constitution in 1985 by the military dictator Mohammad Zia ul-Haq — powers which he himself has criticised as a sword of Damocles over democracy. His concerns about the collapse of law and order are not exaggerated. Prudently, he has sought to minimise the tension attendant on this drastic step by appointing Meraj Khalid, a respected former Speaker from Miss Bhutto's own Pakistan People's Party, as caretaker Prime

Minister and setting February 3 as the firm date for fresh elections. But however honourable his intentions and however firm his democratic credentials, the President has committed an antidemocratic act.

This was effectively a coup, in a country that has had too many of them. Communications were cut, troops guarded the usual "vital installations" and for hours all access to Miss Bhutto was prevented. This is the second time that she has been removed by presidential decree. Democracy is weakened each time these powers are used against an elected government. The President's diagnosis may be sound but his cure is too radical for the country's ultimate good. The shadow of Pakistan's Army is visible at his back.

However culpably resistant Miss Bhutto has been to new legal powers to investigate political corruption, she has not been personally charged with any crime that would be recognised in a court of law. Unless and until this is the case, there must be no attempt to infringe on her democratic right to lead her party into the February elections. To bar her would be as destabilising as it would be improper. As she showed in her "Long March" on Islamabad in 1992, she is mistress of the populist rabble-rousing that is a dismal staple of Pakistani democracy.

She will deserve to lose, however, if she refuses to acknowledge her own part in her downfall. Miss Bhutto claims to be a champion of economic liberalisation and social justice. By tolerating corrupt associates, backing away from reforms that would weaken her own power base and horribly mishandling the nation's finances, she has served neither cause well. A fresh start has been forced upon her. She should meet the challenge with her customary courage — and with a degree of uncustomary humility.

MUSIC MAKES YOU SICK

The professional musician always needs guts as well as art

"Fingers of steel, wrists of steel, biceps and triceps of steel." So did an American journalist famously describe not a heavy-weight boxing champ or the Dallas Cowboys' latest quarterback, but the pianist playing of the Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev when he toured America.

Outsiders may believe that the principal qualities needed by a top-class musician are an excellent ear and a sensitive soul. But the physical challenge of professional music-making can be as great as anything in the world of flannelled fools and muddled oafs. A violinist will make a hundred thousand tiny but exquisitely formed muscle movements in the course of *Parsifal* — excluding the yawns. Oboists will build up massive wind pressures during a long solo. A trumpet player during a treacherous opening to Mahler's Fifth Symphony will test his lungs as rigorously as any Sri Lankan pearl fisher — and for a rather less gleaming prize.

Now it appears that our musicians are wilting under the strain. A new survey claims that an astonishing 70 per cent of orchestral players are suffering from some sort of performance-related illness. Some 20 British orchestras now use medical consultants to deal with ailing players, and a brand new science, "music ergonomics", has been invented to study the problem.

String players, who sit for hours with instrument grudgingly clamped between tilted chin and hunched shoulder, or wedged between long-suffering knees, are particu-

larly prone to excruciating cramps. But there is at least one British opera orchestra whose trombonist has been commissioned a special instrument to counter elbow fatigue.

If overwork accounts for these muscular complaints, it is underemployment — or the fear of it — that is said to be causing mental turmoil in the orchestral world. The report claims that a fifth of all players are suffering from "acute anxiety, depression or sleep disturbance", usually because of job insecurity or nerves. One player in four, it seems, is popping pills as a consequence.

So does music make you ill? Or is this just whingeing? The evidence suggests that the problem lies more in poor training than in any stresses inflicted by snarling conductors or scathing critics. Musicians pick up bad posture and poor habits at an early age, and find it impossible to shed them later. At least one expert maintains that there should be no such thing as "repetitive strain injury" in music, provided that the mind and body are properly tuned to the task in hand.

That is good news. A professional sportsman's career is usually over at 40. But at that age a professional musician has hardly begun to explore his craft. Horowitz, Casals, Heifetz and many others achieved miracles of suppleness in their eighties. If musical ergonomics — or, for that matter, the bandroom equivalent of the "magic sponge" — can sustain the careers of talents like theirs, the most jaundiced observer will shout "encore".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Help for families and schools in teaching moral values

From Dr Abigail Gregory

Sir, Before making any attempt to "return to family values", however this may be interpreted (letters, October 23, 25, 29, 31, November 1, 2, 4), we have to be sure of our facts.

Much hysterical writing in the British press attributes blame for today's delinquency to women's employment in the early years after childbirth. However, the facts show that most women do not "abandon" their children for work at this time. It is still the case that the majority of British women, as distinct from some of their EU counterparts, stop full-time work after the birth of a child and often return to work on a part-time basis, fitting in some paid work around their domestic commitments.

Those who return full-time, although increasing in number, are still in the minority and are much more commonplace in highly qualified professions; as Nigella Lawson points out (article, October 30), there is no evidence to suggest that children of these parents will turn into the delinquents of tomorrow.

It is easy to advocate a return to the "male breadwinner" model, ignoring the needs of the economy for women's skills, the needs of many of today's men for more time spent with their families, and of today's women, who are increasingly qualified and have attendant employment expectations.

The problem in Britain is that we have created a situation which makes it difficult for both parents to reconcile work and family. Families are effectively penalised both ways: when women want to, or have to, return to work after childbirth they are penalised by the lack of subsidised childcare facilities and rights to parental leave, long full-time working hours, and part-time jobs concentrated mainly in low-skilled, low-paid occupations when they do not return to work they are penalised by the financial hardship caused by minimal levels of child benefit and a tax system which does not subsidise the family.

Families also suffer because, in a culture of long working hours, men do not have the option to work flexibly and share the responsibility for bringing up children. It is clear that any future policy for the family should address these problems and enable freedom of choice in the way family and work can be reconciled.

Yours faithfully,
A. GREGORY,
University of Salford,
Department of Modern Languages,
Salford M5 4WT.

From Mr John Wilson

Sir, I find it hard to believe that any moral crusade, however ardent, will achieve much without paying attention to current academic work on the theory and practice of moral education.

Many publications flow from this work: there is, for instance, the well-established *Journal of Moral Education*, on which I serve. Moral education is not something that can be successfully practised, or even properly understood, off the top of our heads, or even from the bottom of our hearts.

Yours etc,
JOHN WILSON,
University of Oxford,
Department of Educational Studies,
15 Norham Gardens, Oxford.
November 5.

From Mr J. M. H. Wright

Sir, Morality can be taught in all our schools, just as it can be taught in our homes. It does not consist in children's memory for definitions, or in watching videos. Since moral behaviour means accepting responsibility for one's own individual actions, it can be taught and practised everywhere.

Some ten years ago, before I retired as a primary school teacher, my tutor on an in-service philosophy course taught me a simple punishment policy. A teacher says "If you do this, the penalty will be X", and means it. The pupil is free to disobey, at a known cost to himself, personally. The teacher does not fall to exact the penalty, and does not impose unearned penalties.

This means, however, that the teacher, or the parent, has to be careful in his threats, as well as in his promises. It is in fact very difficult for the adult to practise, since children are better at being literal than adults. Teachers who dish out continual large threats are no more effective than parents who tell a toddler: "If you don't put that down, Father Christmas won't be coming for you."

If our children can be taught to accept the consequences of their own behaviour, we might even raise a generation of adults who can do the same.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. H. WRIGHT,
44 Broad Road, Sale, Cheshire.
November 4.

From Mr Brian Newman

Sir, Why do so few state schools have the benefit of chaplains, such as those to be found in hospitals, prisons, Armed Forces establishments, universities and colleges and, of course, in public schools?

With many priests and ministers seeking a really meaningful pastoral role, and many schools demonstrating a real need, surely here is a case of genuine synergy. I suspect that most of them would find such part-time work considerably more satisfying than spending many hours each week in interminable committees, engaged in work which, unlike pastoral care, could equally well be undertaken by the laity.

Objections of inappropriateness in a secular, multicultural society would apply no more to schools than to other institutions. Indeed, to have a rabbi or muslim adopt a school as well might in many cases be even more appropriate.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN NEWMAN,
Beckbury House, 87 London Road,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

From Mr A. Overt Locke

Sir, Permit me to remind Mr L. L. Blake (letter, November 4) that we have had three moral precepts far older than those of Justinian: "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God" (Micah vi, 8).

This is wide in its scope and I suspect that only saints can manage all three.

Yours faithfully,
A. OVERT LOCKE,
Kirkham House,
Somerton, Somerset.
November 4.

British subversion of Irish language

From the President of Sinn Féin

Sir, Attributing the decline of the Irish language to "economic necessity" created by the famine (report, October 26) is only part of the story. In fact, as your leading article the same day pointed out, "English hegemony" played its part. The truth is that the famine was consciously used by the British to subvert the Irish language and culture as part of a process of seeking to undermine any sense of an Irish identity and making British colonial rule acceptable.

In addition it is important to remember that even before that period your Government introduced a code of "penal laws" at the outset of the 18th century which included the outlawing of the Irish language and the persecution of Irish speakers. Irish literature was also banned and Irish families informally educated their children in "hedge schools" because formal education through our native tongue was prohibited. It seems that the most superficial familiarity with the historical experience of the Irish people under English rule eludes even the self-styled "quality" English newspapers.

Disappointingly, though unsurprisingly, you seize the opportunity in your leading article to mock the Irish language and by extension those who speak it. You mildly moderate your contempt, saying that "Blarney is perhaps too dismissive a word for these hopes" of Irish language speakers that Telefís na Gaeilge, the new Irish language TV channel, will provide yet another successful dimension to the burgeoning Irish cultural renaissance.

However, your implication that the Irish language is little more than a "dialect", with a handicapped expressive capacity not extending beyond "hurling scores and fishing records", is an example of odious racism in the finest tradition of English imperialism. It appears that the medieval, colonial mindset which brought conflict and war to Ireland is alive and well in the newsrooms of *The Times*.

Or perhaps you are simply feigning bigotry in an effort to prove true the new slogan which adorns the billboards advertising your Sunday sister paper in Ireland: "The English just don't get it!"

Yours etc,
GERRY ADAMS,
President,
Sinn Féin,
51-55 Falls Road, Belfast.
November 1.

Frontline women

From Mr T. Rogers

Sir, Alisa Cook's plight ("Conduct unbecoming", Features, October 28) highlights one of the main problems posed by the recruitment of women into so-called frontline units.

Men serving in these units (infantry, artillery and engineers) are expected to accord equal status to women who have not completed a basic training as rigorous as their male counterparts.

To quote an example, the practice of "milling" (a form of boxing without rules designed to test courage and aggression) is still a part of basic training in some units. However, female recruits who aspire to serve in units whose role could bring them into close contact with the enemy are not required to take part, either in milling, or many of the other physically demanding tests set for male recruits.

It is not conceivable that it is this inequality, and not some form of institutionalised misogyny, that led to the deplorable behaviour of Ms Cook's brother officers?

Yours faithfully,
T. ROGERS,
100 Prestons Road, E14,
October 28.

A broad canvas

From Mr Gavin Musgrave

Sir, Reading the correspondence on the dire effect of volume cut-offs and the juxtaposition of directory headings (letters, October 23, 25, 30) reminds me of the uncharacteristically pessimistic label that adorns one of the shelves in the London Library: "Peace, see War".

Yours truly,
G. T. C. MUSGRAVE,
The Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.
November 2.

From Mr C. T. H. Amery

Sir, I have a complete set of the first edition of *A Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, edited by Sir George Grove. A *to Imprimis* was published in 1879, claiming to be volume one of two. The second volume duly appeared the following year, but only got us from *Imprimis* to *Plainsong*, and described itself as volume two of three.

Even that turned out to be too optimistic, however, because when the next volume emerged in 1883 it did so as volume three of four, *Plainsong to Sumer Is Icomen In*. Finally, in 1889, we reached the finishing line with *Sumer Is Icomen In* (cont'd) to *Zwischenenspiel*, plus an Appendix.

Yours faithfully,
C. T. H. AMERY,
Harrage House,
The Harrage, Romsey, Hampshire.
November 1.

Maltese election

From Professor A. H. B. de Bono

Sir, Your attempt to evoke an atmosphere of uncertainty and anti-Nato alarm following the result of the Maltese elections (leading article, October 29) is as misplaced as it is anachronistic.

The Maltese electorate were not suborned by a massive pre-election road programme and other blandishments using public funds, but voted in a calm, firm and democratic manner, in a record swing, that they did not agree with the Nationalist Government's policy of trying to join the European Union at any cost; though they want the closest association with the EU, they are certainly not anti-Europe but prefer to emphasise their Mediterranean identity.

The Nationalist Government was defeated on a number of issues including the imposition of VAT, but also on allegations of widespread corruption and an unprecedented rise in the cost of living.

Yours sincerely,
ANTONY DE BONO,
Manor Farm, Kirtlington, Oxford.
November 3.

From the High Commissioner for Malta

Sir, Your report (October 29) on the implications of the results of the Maltese elections calls for comment. The new Government in Malta has made it absolutely clear that it is committed to seeking the closest possible relations with Europe. It is also committed to maintaining and enhancing its relations with all its Mediterranean neighbours.

It is the new Government's firm belief that Malta's status of neutrality provides the best means through which Malta can ensure the closest and most balanced set of relations with all its neighbours, without distinction. The issue of membership of Nato's Partnership for Peace is primarily related to our neutral status and has no bearing on our relationship with any single country or group of countries.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR CAMILLERI,
Malta High Commission,
Malta House,
36-38 Piccadilly, W1.
November 1.

Off target

From Ms Svava Bjarnason

Sir, The report by Mr Quentin Letts on opposition to field sports by "bummy-buggers" in the Midwest (November 2) is moderately interesting. If a little romantic — particularly when describing Montana women as having "strong hips and downy upper lips" (a quaint rhyme, but hardly a fair generalisation). However, it would have been more helpful to have illustrated an article which was largely about elk with a picture of an elk rather than a North American moose.

Yours sincerely,
SVAVA BJARNASON,
27 Shandon Road, SW4.
November 2.

Why the secretary packed her trunk

From Mr G. H. Webb

Sir, You report (October 30) the interesting discovery of a mixed consignment of Kipling papers, originally taken by a disgruntled private secretary, Miss K. E. Parker, who worked for the Kiplings from 1902 to 1904. In one of the documents she had evidently complained about their insensitive treatment of her, and inadequate remuneration for her services.

The Kiplings were strict employers but not unfair ones. Two subsequent private secretaries, Dorothy Ponton and Cicely Nicholson, gave them years of devoted and contented service, and much later published appreciative accounts of the experience. As to Miss Parker, there are a few allusions in Mrs Kipling's diaries, which shed a little light on the relationship.

She is first mentioned on May 6, 1902, as being appointed "on trial", and she started work on June 30. On April 30, 1904, she is said to be resigning "to better herself", but on May 5,

the day on which a new governess to the Kiplings' two children was appointed at £60 a year, Miss Parker is described as having changed her mind and decided to stay on, at £130. However, the arrangement did not last; and on September 15 she finally gave notice.

Mrs Kipling, in her diary, summarised Miss Parker as "good and helpful", but in the same entry as "inaccurate and tiresome". She would no doubt have given vent to a severer sentence had she known that her employee would take with her papers entrusted to her charge — including, as you report, a typescript draft of the sensational science-fiction story, *With the Night Mail*, due for publication in 1905.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEBB
(Editor, *Kipling Journal*),
Weavers,
Danes Hill, Woking, Surrey.
November 1.

Updated 'Fowler'

From Mr Malcolm Oliver

Sir, Fowler does not (Mr Watkins's letter, November 1) "blithely excuse the splitting of infinitives". Rather, he offers the sensible and pragmatic advice not to fret too much about disobeying an artificial and illogical rule if in so doing the intended meaning is more clearly or more naturally conveyed.

Fowler took a similar approach to most of the other "grammatical improvements" that were introduced by Dryden and others in the 17th century by means of inappropriate reference to Latin. This includes the terminal preposition apparently eschewed by Mr Watkins, which led Churchill to describe famously (no need to split here) the sort of linguistic nonsense "up with which he would not put".

It is always salutary to reflect that, because the Pilgrim Fathers set sail well before Dryden and his friends began to Latinise our grammar, many of the "Americanisms" so often decried

in relation to "proper English" are in fact closer to the original, and far more sensible, than current English usage, even after the best efforts of Fowler, Gowers and now Burchfield.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM OLIVER,
26 Green Lane,
Purley, Surrey.
November 1.

From Wing Commander D. O. Luke

Sir, The article (October 29) on "When to split the infinitive taboo, a look at word order, and how to use 'while'" was interesting and instructive, but I doubt that the new Fowler's *Modern English Usage* will be of any interest or use to those of our young people schooled in grammar who don't even know what an infinitive is — and that means almost all of them.

Yours faithfully,
D. O. LUKE,
4 Horswell Cottages,
South Milton, Devon.
November 2.

Children at risk

From the Director of the Family Rights Group

Sir, What can we learn from the tragic death of Rikid Neave (reports, October 31)? One possible response would be to reverse recent trends and increase the number of families subject to child-protection investigations and registers. Such a move has proved futile in the past and would do so again.

Placing more children on child-protection registers can easily result in welfare services losing sight of the children who are in real danger, whilst stigmatising those (usually poor) families who want help. Department of Health research shows that many families approaching social services find themselves subject to investigation and monitoring without receiving any assistance.

There will continue to be a need for

targeted, effectively-managed child protection for the minority of high-risk situations, but the overall direction of welfare provision should focus on the needs of the majority of service users. We need to listen to what these children and parents are saying, and we need the funding and support to allow us to respond with relevant, accessible and non-judgmental services.

Yours sincerely,
DAVE EDWARDS,
Director, Family Rights Group,
The Print House,
18 Ashwin Street, E8.
November 1.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD ELLISON

Richard Ellison, aviator, died on October 20 aged 88. He was born on January 22, 1908.

On April 3, 1933, the throaty roar of two single-engined Westland biplanes sounded for the first time in the skies over the peak of the highest mountain in the world. The team of aviators who undertook this hazardous flight through turbulent air, high over icy crevasses, were the first men ever to view Everest from above. Another 20 years were to elapse before Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing would conquer the summit on foot.

Richard Ellison was the last surviving member of the team of aviators who contributed to this historic flight. Though he did not fly over the peak himself — that honour fell to the Marquis of Clydesdale and Flight Lieutenant David McIntyre — he played an important part in the expedition. As pilot of a Puss Moth aircraft, he was responsible for ferrying in fuel and supplies and he flew on a photo reconnaissance mission two days before the first summit flight. Ellison later flew a Westland PV3 to a height of 31,000 feet over Kangchenjunga.

Later in the month he flew solo several times to Everest to assess conditions for a second flight over the mountain, which was successfully accomplished by Clydesdale and McIntyre on April 19, 1933. McIntyre and Ellison then flew two of the Moths, which had been used as communications aircraft, back to Britain, a journey that took ten days with 55 hours' flying time.

Richard Charles William Ellison began flying through a series of coincidences. As a young man he was working as a mining surveyor at a colliery owned by a relation in Northallerton, when one day, as he was walking home from the colliery to his lodgings, a small plane landed near by and the pilot got out to ask him directions. Ellison then had to assist with the plane's take-off again, hanging onto the tailplane to lift and steady the craft.

That evening a small-aid in the newspaper which his landlady had left him to light the fire with caught his eye. It offered places for applicants to train at Digby flying school. Ellison applied, was accepted and, on



Wings over Everest: Fellowes, Ellison and McIntyre at Heston after the pioneering flight

completing the course, was offered a five-year short service commission with the RAF.

He was serving in India when the Houston-Westland expedition (so called since it was financed by Lady Houston, widow of the millionaire shipowner Sir Robert Houston, and used Westland aircraft) arrived in the country. Since his skill as a pilot was already well known, the expedition asked the RAF if it could "borrow" him, and he joined it, on secondment, at Karachi.

As transport officer to the expedition, which was led by Air Commodore P. F. M. Fellowes, he was

responsible for its logistics, communications between the outside world and its base at Purnea in Bihar, 150 miles from Everest. Had either Clydesdale or McIntyre been killed or otherwise incapacitated, Ellison, as reserve pilot, was to attempt the Everest flight itself.

The aim of the expedition was not merely to fly over Everest, but to make a film of the flight (later released as the Gaumont documentary *Wings Over Everest*) and a photographic survey of the glaciers, valleys and cliffs of its southern flank, which had never been explored before. Many of the dramatic photo-

graphs subsequently obtained were published exclusively in *The Times*, whose aeronautical correspondent, E. Colston Shepherd, accompanied the expedition. *The Times* also struck a silver medal to commemorate the flight, and Ellison was one of the recipients of the award which was presented by Lady Houston when the expedition returned to England.

On April 4, 1933, the day after Clydesdale and McIntyre's successful flight, Fellowes and Ellison took off to explore the world's third highest mountain, Kangchenjunga, in a Westland Wallace and a Westland PV3 respectively. As they climbed

towards the summit, Fellowes began to experience problems with his oxygen supply and was forced to peel off and make an emergency landing. Ellison carried on, climbing to 31,000 ft. from which altitude the Gaumont cameraman in his rear cockpit was able to obtain excellent photographs of the 28,168 ft peak.

In 1935 Ellison retired from the RAF as a flight lieutenant. After a spell working for an air ferrying company he joined Scottish Aviation at Prestwick. There both his skill as a pilot and his natural talent for engineering — though he had no formal training — proved invaluable.

During the war Prestwick was the main reception airfield for the many aircraft flying into Britain from America and Ellison took personal delivery of the first batch of Catalina flying boats that arrived before the US entered the war. Later he was promoted to general manager while continuing to test-fly all the aircraft coming out of the factory.

After the war he negotiated an agreement with the Americans that Scottish Aviation should have sole rights for the conversion to civilian use of Dakota C47 and Skymaster C54 troop-carrying aircraft. The company also specialised in custom-built aircraft for clients such as Emperor Haile Selassie and the King of the Belgians. Ellison often delivered these aircraft to their new owners himself.

Ellison enjoyed the outdoor life. He bought a farm and became one of the first to design tractor cabs — until then tractor drivers had been exposed to the elements — which were built at Scottish Aviation. He also built coaches using the extended chassis of old army lorries. Another project was a folding caravan which, if it never really caught on, afforded him much pleasure on his fishing and skiing trips round Scotland.

In 1953 Ellison moved south to farm in Norfolk. But he never lost his interest in engineering projects. In 1958 he moved again after buying the South Berkshire Engineering Company, where he developed a special lathe for ornamental turnings. Neither did he ever lose his fascination with flying: last year, aged 87, he was still enjoying going up in a glider.

He died on his 62nd wedding anniversary and is survived by his wife Beryl and by their four sons.

GEORGE BLAZYNSKI

Zbigniew ("George") Blazynski, broadcaster, author and former diplomat, died in London on October 25 aged 82. He was born in Poland on January 8, 1914.

GEORGE BLAZYNSKI was one of those Poles for whom a promising career in their country's diplomatic service was cut short by the German and Soviet invasions of Poland in 1939. He was then second secretary at the Polish Embassy in Prague. Within weeks he was helping to evacuate foreign diplomats from Poland via Romania to France where he himself was later to win the Croix de Guerre fighting with the Polish artillery under French command.

After escaping from German-occupied France to Casablanca and then to Britain, Blazynski was engaged on special duties for the London-based Polish Government-in-Exile. His activities, while based in Lisbon, included helping to organise an escape route to Britain for Polish soldiers interned in Spain. At the end of the war he served for a time as education officer with the Polish Resettlement Corps in Britain.

This was a more than usually circuitous route into journalism and broadcasting. After working for two years, 1950-52, as an outside contributor to the BBC Polish Service in London, Blazynski moved to Munich for three years as chief Polish commentator with Radio Free Europe.

In 1953 the sensational defection to the West of Colonel Jozef Swiatko, a department head in Communist Poland's Ministry of Public Security, provided the world with a major insight into the true nature of Soviet Communist operations in Eastern Europe. Blazynski was flown to Washington to "debrief" the colonel whose intimate knowledge of his own department's files —

divulged in several weeks of interviews — provided material for 150 broadcasts beamed back to Poland. The Polish Communist Party was said to have been severely shaken and the secret police apparatus temporarily destabilised.

In broadcasting terms, it was a major coup for Blazynski and doubtless helped to lay the foundations for his later career with the BBC, where for some years he was head of the Polish Service, later becoming assistant head of the Central European Ser-



vice until he retired in 1976.

As a broadcaster, commentator and administrator, he played an important part in helping to maintain the pre-eminence of the BBC Polish Service as a source of information, comment and encouragement to millions of Polish listeners.

In retirement his energies found a fresh outlet in books, articles and lectures. An active member of Chatham House, he was the author of a biography of Pope John Paul II, *A Man from Krakow* (1979), and a full-length political study of Poland under Communism, *Flashpoint Poland*, published in the same year. He was also co-editor of a multivolume history of the Polish Government-in-Exile.

He is survived by his wife Teresa, whom he married in 1962, and by a stepson.

NICHOLAS VEREY

Nicholas Verey, stockbroker, died of leukaemia on October 16 aged 53. He was born on February 28, 1943.

NICHOLAS VEREY'S career mirrored the development of the City of London as an international investment banking centre and, reflecting in part his own role as a shaper of events, was filled with drama.

Coming from an established City family, Henry Nicholas

Verey went straight from Eton to what was then the small stockbroking firm of Rowe & Pitman at the age of 18. He quickly learnt the basics of the stockbroking back-office and his skill in handling clients brought him a partnership in 1970 when he was only 27. On the strength of this prospective partnership, he married Dinah Nicholson two years later, although shortly afterwards the stock market crashed and for the whole of 1974 he earned no income at all.

He went on to run a new department in Rowe & Pitman known as "The Ops Room". This was a forerunner of the great trading floors now commonplace in the City. The team, initially only three-strong, worked to keep institutional investors in touch with developments in the stock market, distributing stock more rapidly to them than ever before. The first proving ground was the famous series of "dawn raids", kicked off when Rowe & Pitman snap-

ped up 29.9 per cent of Cons Gold from investors for Minoro in a morning.

The 1980s takeover boom saw Verey at full stretch. This phase started when he acted for Dalgely in its successful takeover of Spillers and began to wind down when the boom blew itself up with the Guinness takeover of Distillers. Verey was acting for the losing counterbidder, Argyle, and was baffled as to how his team lost — a bewilderment that only the subsequent Guinness trial dispelled.

It was during this period that Verey added an extended portfolio of corporate clients to his network of institutional contacts. These were among the world's leading blue chip companies, including Unilever, British Airways and Boots.

From the mid-1980s another important business trend emerged in the shape of large-scale IPOs, or flotations, many of which were part of the Government's privatisation programme. Verey was deeply involved in a series of important flotations, including those for British Airways, the Trustee Savings Bank, Abbey National and Abbey Life. But perhaps his most challenging transaction of all was the Eurotunnel flotation of 1987. It was he who came up with the inspired idea of building an elaborate model railway in the heart of the City, to make tangible to institutional investors what was then still a paper project.

Rowe & Pitman merged into the S G Warburg Group in 1986. In retrospect, this event highlighted a tension in his career between a concern about his position in the hierarchy and the intensely personal nature of his client work. He spent too little time

fostering a powerbase in the enlarged group and, although a full board member throughout the late 1980s, was essentially a minister without portfolio.

This awkward position was eased when, in 1990, he was appointed chairman of S G Warburg in New York, where he again succeeded in galvanising a small operation. By the time he left in 1992, the group was the only foreign securities house able to take on domestic blue chip equity issuing business.

Back in London he became chairman of S G Warburg Securities in 1994 and joint managing director of Investment Banking, one of the three most senior executive roles in the bank. He did not take an active role in the abortive negotiations with Morgan Stanley the next year, although the fallout of their failure on senior management was inevitable.

Verey himself was deeply affected by it, though he rapidly came to terms with the subsequent takeover of the bank by the Swiss Bank Corporation in July last year, and was preparing with customary gusto to concentrate again on client business. At the same time he was proving a tower of strength at the London Stock Exchange, where he was a board member in the inner circle which had to deal with the difficulties of introducing an order-driven trading system.

He was in the midst of this highly public process when leukaemia was diagnosed in January this year. He fought his illness with all the vigour of a takeover campaign, refusing to give up until the end. He is survived by his wife Dinah and a son and daughter.

PETER DOIG

Peter Doig, Labour MP for Dundee West, 1963-79, died on October 31 aged 85. He was born on September 27, 1911.

PETER DOIG, with unshakeable right-wing views, survived for 16 years in the House of Commons while representing a constituency party which grew steadily more left-wing in a city where headline shop stewards often dominated the trade union branches. It was a tribute to his personal qualities that he remained his local party's choice; but it came as no surprise when he defected to the Social Democrats after he had decided not to fight the 1979 general election.

His career owed nothing to oratory or passion. He was an unimpressive speaker who reserved most of his emotional energy for the perils of postmen bitten by rampaging dogs. Not even the royal kennels were safe from his anger. He revealed that a corgi had dared to bite a postman delivering mail at Balmoral and after two failed attempts, he managed to get a Bill on the statute book which ensured that owners of dangerous dogs should be made to post warning notices.

Doig did not court popularity in the bars and clubs of Dundee. In a country noted for temperance, he was a resolute teetotaler. And, while capital punishment was first suspended and then abolished after Labour came to office in 1964, he remained an unabashed advocate of hanging.

Peter Muir Doig was a miner's son educated at Blackness School in Dundee and later at evening classes. He became a baker's boy at 14, rising to become his firm's sales representative after war-

time service in the RAF. He joined the Labour Party while still in his teens, became a member of Dundee Town Council and was town treasurer for four years.

His first parliamentary venture was at Aberdeen South in 1959 where the glamorous TV performer, Lady Tweedsmuir, had little difficulty in holding the seat. Then, in 1963, Dundee West became vacant through the death of John Strachey, the former Marxist theorist and minister in the Anlee Governments. Since his



Left Book Club days of the 1930s Strachey had moved steadily to the right, and the subsequent selection conference reflected his progress, with the final choice lying between Doig and a Gaitskillite academic, Robert MacLauchlin. There was a dramatic tie before Doig won the run-off by a single vote. He was backed by the jute workers and jute then still stood high in Dundee.

When he said he was retiring from politics in 1979, he meant it. He spent the last 15 years of his life living placidly at Newport-on-Tay. He married in 1938 Emily Scott, who survives him together with their two sons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Who knows those who have been in the armed forces and who have suffered from mental illness? The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society is a voluntary organisation which aims to help and support ex-servicemen and women who have suffered from mental illness. The Society provides a range of services including counselling, support groups, and residential care. For more information, contact the Society at 10, 11 & 12, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 733 3100.

COMBATSTRESS

Combat Stress is a voluntary organisation which aims to help and support ex-servicemen and women who have suffered from mental illness. The Society provides a range of services including counselling, support groups, and residential care. For more information, contact the Society at 10, 11 & 12, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 733 3100.

Funding

Our doctors, radiologists and oncologists - direct diagnosis - save patients from major surgery - treat 150,000 new cancer patients each year. But there's a long way to go! We need £5 million for a new research and education unit. It could be the life of a new cancer you're helping to save!

ALYNDRA ROSE DAY 1996

June 1996. Total collected in the City of London, London, was £2,000.00. The day was held at the City of London, London, and was a great success. For more information, contact the Society at 10, 11 & 12, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 733 3100.

BIRMINGHAM TRADING FAMILY

any information of present or past, or when it comes to the future. Please call on Box 1118.

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CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Charity Commission is a statutory body which regulates charities in England and Wales. It is responsible for ensuring that charities are properly managed and that their funds are used for their charitable purposes. For more information, contact the Commission at 1, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 733 3100.

IN THE MATTER OF

A SITUATION

THE INDEMNITY ACT 1966. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company is a member of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Commission is responsible for ensuring that charities are properly managed and that their funds are used for their charitable purposes. For more information, contact the Commission at 1, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 0171 733 3100.

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Directors must grasp the hard facts of terrorism

Movie goes soft focus on Ireland

So I said to Gerry Adams, "What writers have most influenced you?" It seemed pointless to go to a book launch and not ask the author about his work. Mr Adams, at Camden's Irish Centre trying to publicise his autobiography, seemed grateful for a question that was not about the peace process. He obliged with a straight answer. Liam O'Flaherty, Sean O'Casey, Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney and — can you believe? — P.G. Wodehouse.

Heartened, I threw another stylistic probe at the man of letters. Why had he felt it appropriate to include in his true-life story a fictitious account of the shooting of a British soldier? The answer was the usual polysyllabic waffle seen so often on TV — something about the need to incorporate an impression of the experiences of all parts of his community in West Belfast. No, he had not carried out the action described. In that case, Adams was wrong to put fiction into his fact. I think Neil Jordan was wrong, too, to put car bombs in his *Michael Collins*, which opens on Friday, with more advance hype than a Disney blockbuster before a school holiday. Terrorists did not use bombs in 1922. Nor did British soldiers fire on crowds from armoured vehicles, only on foot. Nor was Collins loyal to his Irish fiancée. He had an aristocratic English mistress during his treaty negotiations in London in 1921. Some argue that artistic licence absolves film-makers from historical accuracy. Not when the IRA is poised between, in Sinn Féin-speak, "a restoration of the cessation" and a Christmas bombing campaign. It doesn't. Not when Americans, 44 million of whom claim an Irish connection, cannot grasp that Northern Ireland is anything other than an oppressed colony held by the grip of British armed might.

To suggest, as Jordan's film apparently does, that Collins' death was organised by his arch-rival and subsequent long-serving president of Ireland, Eamon de Valera, is immoral and mischievous — far worse than Oliver Stone's *Boys Own* fabrication of a conspiracy theory in his film *JFK*. Who might have killed Kennedy is not a live issue. Identifying Ireland's internal enemies is. That Irish nationalists, North and South, are still riven by murderous factions is one of the main obstacles to today's peace process. Besides, there was no need to be economical with the truth in the Collins story. Jordan's film seems to be a winner even though it demands that the audience understands recondite details such as the difference between dominion status and

independence if it is to understand why Ireland's noble freedom-fighter should have been assassinated by one of his own side. Any distortion of reality matters. The world runs on trust that people give their right names and that clocks tell the right time. When the line between actual and imaginary is crossed for the sake of art, the transition should be clearly signalled as a matter of principle.

Nowhere is this more important than with things Irish, especially as "Irish" is the flavour of the month. Riverdance, pop groups such as U2 and Oasis, Samuel Beckett biographies: every medium of expression seems to flourish these days when blessed with the magic green touch. No less than *The New York Times* made it official last month, in a prominent feature: "The Irish Are Ascendant Again". It quoted the aforesaid Heaney laughingly proclaiming at Harvard: "Ireland is chieft"



BRENDA MADDOX

From "chieft" is but a step to "cute". Have you seen Channel 4's *Father Ted*? That fee series takes us back to the political problem. The Irishman as winsome, drunk, unworldly, childlike: I thought we had done with Thick Mick jokes. Did you catch Sunday's episode? A plump full of silly priests, all in dog collars and clerical black, on their way back from a holiday visit to a shrine, with one red-faced old priest clutching the drinks trolley, was a case not so much for a Bafta jury as for the Race Relations Board.

When things Irish were less politically correct in America, the literary scholar Hugh Kenner got away with identifying an "Irish fact" — an anecdote so good that it deserved to be true.

It is not the business of serious film-makers nor of Sinn Féin nor Channel 4 to be churning out "Irish facts". Genuine facts in this tortuous history are rare enough to be sacred.

The BBC chairman was appearing alone yesterday. His press conference was not, I was told, a "John Birt-sort of event". Sir Christopher Bland was very much in command, delivering the corporation's promises to its licence-fee payers. Here are a few he forgot:

The BBC undertakes always to use good plain English, to respect the symbolic importance of its buildings in Central London, and to reduce management jobs such as advertised in last week's staff magazine *Ariel*: "Desktop Implementation Managers", "Desktop Evolution Managers" and "Support Analysts (Helpdesk)".

Women war stars start own star wars

THE battles in Afghanistan between native militias are a pillow fight compared with the rivalry between two of the leading women in American television. Diane Sawyer of ABC News and Christiane Amanpour of CBS/CNN both find themselves reporting on Kabul at present. It has been powder puffs at dawn.

Amanpour is the new star of US TV war reporting. Her prowess in the Middle East led to a \$1million-plus contract this summer which saw CNN and CBS agree to share her. Naturally, they expect a top performance for their dollars from the English-educated Amanpour.

Last weekend, however, Amanpour was outmanoeuvred by Sawyer when ABC got wind that CBS was planning an Amanpour special report for Sunday. ABC suddenly pressed the fast-forward button on an Afghan report Sawyer was expected to deliver a few days later. It was instead rushed onto an ABC documentary slot on Friday.

Sawyer 1; Amanpour 0. But it is only half-

THERE was much excitement on the dreary Isle of Dogs last week when the vision-like figure of Elizabeth Hurley floated in to the Canary Wharf tower. Where, wondered star-struck office workers, could the £1 million face of *Estée Lauder* possibly be heading? Perhaps she had done a deal with the Sunday Mirror or, worse, agreed to appear on the *Mirror Group's* inane cable station Live TV?

Step forward Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose offices are also in Canary Wharf. Staff are feverishly speculating on the reason for his lunchdate with the safety-pin queen. Suggestions have ranged from a revelatory "Life after Divine Brown" interview to a regular column. "Or perhaps Dominic is planning a special report on *Estée Lauder* skincare products," said one.

Great Scot

THE BBC's policy of being seen to tighten its belt clearly does not extend to its coverage of the US presidential elections. In the week that the



Hurley: date with Lawson

Bech wiped out a flotilla of top jobs at BBC Scotland, *The Listener* brings news that it has sent a veritable army to cover the story in America.

More than 70 BBC radio and television staff have been sent to Washington. Such healthy staffing levels might not be appreciated back home in Scotland where the BBC has axed several key posts including head of radio.

John McCormick, the Controller of BBC Scotland, said the process, involving the separation of broadcasting and production operations, would mean "a number of posts

would be surrendered". One job which has been jettisoned is that of head of television for BBC Scotland. The post was filled by Colin Cameron, who has now been moved to head production. Mr Cameron is more famously known as the man who criticised the reporting style of the BBC's Kate Adie during the Dunblane massacre.

Hairy horror

THERE was a rare burst of activity at the Mirror Group's Live TV studios this week when staff were spotted in a state of near hysteria. For once it was not the station's topless darts programme which caused such excitement but a large tarantula called Harry. Animal psychic John Starkey was just about to read the spider's mind on television when it leapt from its tank. "It was a simple case of stage fright," explained Starkey. Curious, though, that his psychic mind didn't see it coming.

Answering first

THE trend for celebrities to leap aboard the lucrative TV advertising bandwagon continues apace. The anarchic BBC celebrity interviewer Dennis Pennis has taken the admen's shilling by agreeing



Pennis: a pie in the face

to replace the dancing cows in a commercial for Anchor butter. Pennis, whose stock in trade is to humiliate his subjects by asking them insulting questions, apparently felt he was heading for his comeuppance.

He has therefore allowed himself to be slapped in the face with a custard pie by Noel Godwin, the eccentric Belgian comedian, in the commercial due out soon. Paul Kaye, the real life comic who plays Dennis Pennis, said: "A lot of people think I should get a taste of my own medicine. I thought I'd get in first."

Bringing the West Coast to London

ST LUKE'S, the peculiarly named advertising agency which is co-owned by its staff and adopts Californian-style business practices such as hot-desking and teleworking, has celebrated its first birthday.

The anniversary was appropriately marked on St Luke's Day — St Luke being the patron saint of arts and crafts after whom the agency, advertising's very first collective, was named.

Despite much industry derision on launch, the agency has had a glittering inaugural 12 months. It has beaten the night of Abbott Mead Vickers, M&C Saatchi, Bartle Bogle Hegarty and Ogilvy & Mather to such prestigious pieces of business as Ikea, Eurostar and Teletext.

It has also expanded from 35 shareholding employees to 54, and lost only one member of staff. Evidently he couldn't handle the agency's groovy West Coast philosophy, which eschews traditional workplace hierarchies and

ADVERTISING

constraints and gives its staff satchels, lockers and mobile phones in place of offices and desks.

"There must be some method in our madness," David Abrahams, St Luke's marketing director, summed up.

CONSUMERS may be getting smarter, but only a handful of advertisers are presently turning advertising wisdom completely on its head by negatively positioning their brands.

CPC Foods is running a nationwide TV campaign for Marmite which uses the line "I hate Marmite", while H.P. Bulmer's has just been given the go-ahead by the Advertising Standards Authority to mount a press campaign for its new premium packaged cider, Woodpecker Red, bearing the strapline "It leaves a horrible taste in your mouth". Whatever next?

THE Institute of Contemporary Art in London is all set to cause a stir with a controversial cinema advertisement entitled "You shouldn't have to die before you're discovered".

The commercial is aimed at improving the institute's manifesto of showcasing art created by people who are still alive. It features a grisly sequence of dead musicians, artists and singers lying in see-through body bags littering the streets of London. The 50-second ad is complemented by a "living" communications campaign embracing corporate mailers and postcard guides distributed by costumed performance artists to art-friendly companies around the capital.

The challenging campaign, conceived by Ammirail Puris Lintas, disproves the theory that big agencies are incapable of doing strong work for small clients with small budgets.

BELINDA ARCHER



St Luke: patron saint of hot-deskers

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Closing date: Friday, 15 November 1996. Interviews will be held on 27 and 28 November 1996.

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The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Camcorders and copycats can pose dangers to documentaries, says Patricia Holland



A scene from Channel 4's *Postcards From The Edge* series, an example of innovative documentary-making which used provocative arguments

Some factual flaws

With a small, high quality digital camera, one person can now film a television documentary so that you wouldn't be able to tell the difference between the end result and a programme made by a larger film crew.

Director Christopher Terrill made BBC2's engrossing *Soho Stories* without the usual crews of three, four or five technicians. Does this mean that television is coming up with styles that are distinctively new and different? Or is it a step towards the often predicted decline in standards?

Cutting Edge, launched in 1990, started the revolution in television documentary. This powerful strand on Channel 4 pioneered programmes that are so close to ordinary life that they leave the audience breathless. From the revelations of *Family Feuds* to the emotion of *Gaza's Coming Home*, these documentaries are pacy, dynamic and above all, popular. Commissioning editor Peter Moore says that he set out to map the landscape of the 1990s. "I wanted an 'in your face' quality," it was a winning style and has been heavily imitated, especially by the BBC.

It was not so long ago that documentary makers were terrified that factual programmes of all sorts would be pushed to the outer fringes of the broadcast spectrum. To many people's surprise, what happened instead was that the whole idea of documentary took off with renewed vigour. To a certain extent this was due to developing technologies. Equipment that was

smaller and easier to use could give an exciting urgency to new-look programmes: home movie camcorders for *Video Diaries*; and miniature and surveillance cameras for *Polite Camera Action*.

Most importantly there was the need to earn a place in schedules that were becoming ever more competitive. Carlton started life as an ITV company by thumbing its nose at everyone — including the Independent Television Commission — with such documentary froth as *Hollywood Wives*. At Channel 4, the horizon began to shift when, from 1993, instead of receiving income from ITV, the channel was made to sell its own advertising.

Documentary has traditionally set out to inform, concerned with the quality rather than the size of its audience. Pure entertainment values came way down the list of priorities. But today's documentary has taken over as television's prime dramatic medium, targeting moments of conflict and crisis.

There are peak-time documentary strands on all the terrestrial channels, and, in Discovery, we have an entire satellite channel devoted to factual programming. This proliferation has been backed by a commissioning strategy that recognises the need for brands — strands with their own name and a distinctive style that will attract the audiences at the same time each week.

Following such a success story, where is the problem? It could be that we are moving out of the period of



Novel: BBC2's *The House*

excitement and innovation towards imitation and repetition. Having found a winning formula, some producers and directors argue that documentaries are becoming homogenised. Film-makers complain about commissioning editors who make detailed demands to ensure that each programme fits the formula.

"When I began, one always asked whether a subject had been done before," said Karen Brown, Channel 4's Head of Factual Programmes. "That question isn't asked any more."

More seriously, BBC2 has been accused of shadowing Channel 4 to the extent that both channels have found their ability to innovate squeezed. Channel 4's bid for higher ratings took it into unconventional territory. It turned to the quirky and the American. BBC2 has followed suit and

has specialised zones, youth nights and classy American imports. Its series *Modern Times* has latched on to the formula of *Cutting Edge*.

The race for audiences is forcing the populist formula to collapse into a "remarkable true tales" syndrome, with ambulance chasing and car crashes figuring large, valuing superficial excitement over any sort of careful exploration. It is squeezing out overseas stories, material from the Third World and material that is politically risky. A survey of peak-time factual broadcasting, published last month by a group of agencies, including United UK, showed a 14 per cent drop in Third World coverage over the three years of the study.

The simplification of technology has itself been a two-edged sword. More people have gained access to the airwaves but this may lead to journalistic expertise and judgement, as well as technical skills, being eroded out.

United Kingdom, currently in production by Mosaic Pictures for the BBC, is an initiative which builds on the success of the same company's *Russian Wonderland*. Newish programme-makers have been asked to produce stories from around the country. The drawback is that they will have no say over the editing of the final programmes.

And here is the crunch. For the raw material of documentary is always real people. Gabriella Polenta, who turned down the offer to make a *United Kingdom* episode in favour of a community-based programme, argues that these

new methods will ensure that participants are little more than camera fodder. The director will have no say over whether their smiles will be erased in favour of their sows, simply because they make good viewing.

The new phase of documentary could be one which exploits both the people in the programmes and many of those who make them.

Documentary can still tell enthralling stories but is it forgetting its claims to be the conscience of the age? Initiatives like Channel 4's *Broke Season*, particularly the excellent *Postcards From The Edge* series, which interviewed the often tragic stories of personal lives using highly original programme-making and provocative arguments, suggest that all is not yet lost.

Now, a magazine just for the divorced

Is there a niche market in heartbreak? A Canadian publisher is banking on it, Quentin Letts reports

On Manhattan newsstands next month, amid the lifestyle glossies, knitting pattern weeklies, interior design monthlies and the bridal brochures, there will be a fresh title: *Divorce* magazine. For \$2.95 (£1.96), the buyer — who is expected to be fortysomething, gaunt-faced and depressed — will be able to find out everything he or she wants to know about the grisly business of marriage disintegration.

We have magazines that tell us how to buy a car and which pension plan to choose. So why not, in this age of niche marketing, have a magazine that instructs you how to survive one of the most stressful experiences yet devised by mankind?

That is the question a Canadian magazine publisher, Dan Couvrette, found himself asking when he was going through an acrimonious divorce. "I was looking for information but could find it nowhere," he recalled. "There were a couple of books about emotional upset and fathering, but apart from that I could find nothing to tell me what to do during a divorce. I needed help but there was none."

It was not long after his final papers came through that Mr Couvrette, who, ironically, used to have a share in *Wedding Bells* magazine, set about planning *Divorce*. His fledgling title has had preliminary runs in Chicago and Toronto and in the next couple of months it will be launched in the two biggest divorce markets in the world: New York and Los Angeles. Los Angeles has 96,000 divorces a year, while New York has about 58,000.

One popular misconception is that subscribers will pick it up for only a few weeks before they get their lives sorted out. "Not so," he claimed. The typical divorce tends to take about two years. In the United States 12 million marriages end in divorce. "Over a two-year period you are looking at a potential readership of 4.8 million people," he said.

His publication is glossy but takes a generally serious approach. Admittedly, the autumn issue, which tested in Chicago and Toronto, has a front-page "taster" headline "Is Your Ex From Another Planet?", but it referred to a serious discourse on how to maintain "lines of communication". The same issue also had a guide to divorce support services, an interview with a "relationship expert", a problem-solving article on choosing an estate agent and finding a new mortgage, and a travel article headlined "Happier holidays — how to



The glossy for divorcing couples

cope with, and even enjoy, the holidays."

"You are unlikely to find Charles and Diana on our front cover," said Mr Couvrette, "unless one of them said something interesting and helpful about divorce."

Nor does the magazine intend to have a gossip column about Hollywood stars and their marital problems, although Mr Couvrette suspected that such features might appeal. Instead, you are more likely to find an article about the effect of divorce on children, or a guide to careers for middle-aged women re-entering the employment market.

Advertisers seem keen. There has been interest from estate agents and law firms, but also from health spas, plastic surgeons and hair-transplant specialists. "People

going through a divorce often feel that they need a change of image," explained Mr Couvrette. Despite those looming alimony charges and the legal bills, divorcing adults can be attractive to a variety of advertisers. When Mr Couvrette went through his divorce he bought a boat, while a friend who had long harboured ambitions to be a biker went out and bought a Harley Davidson. Others have been known to go on holiday, go to college, or change the wallpaper.

Mr Couvrette would like to expand into Europe. He has eyed both the British and German markets, but will first see how things go in New York and Los Angeles. "There are subtle differences for each region," he said. In Los Angeles, for example, where there is a large homosexual community, the magazine will cover the ending of gay partnerships. In New York, where the duplex pooch is a fact of life, there will be articles about how to decide who keeps Fido. Small items such as a loved Maltese terrier can lead to the biggest and most expensive legal battles.

Divorce will not be taking a strong line against everyone's favourite target, lawyers. For one, they are a good source of advertising revenue. But as the publisher also pointed out: "Blaming divorce lawyers for pushing too hard is like blaming boxers for punching one another once they are in the ring. It is their job. Divorce is such an emotionally charged time for people that they often use their lawyers to get their own back on one another."

It will also have a mission. "I want to take the stigma out of divorce. For many people, it remains the terrible D word. People suffer needlessly because of the stigma of divorce." Some churchgoers might comment that divorce has become all too easy, but at least Mr Couvrette's experience offers some hope. After the anguish of separating from the woman with whom he had shared ten years of his life, he and his wife are now "very good friends".

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

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HOW TO GET YOUR TICKET

Collect 18 differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and three differently numbered tokens from *The Sunday Times* (after today 15 more will be printed in *The Times* and two more in *The Sunday Times* until November 23, 1996). An application form will be published in *The Times* on November 16 when you can apply for your special free ticket voucher. Applications must be received no later than Monday, December 9, 1996. Within 21 days you will receive a free ticket voucher from Eurostar with an information pack with details of how to book and £10 return connecting fares.* Applicants and travellers using the free ticket must be aged 18 or over. Only one application for a free ticket voucher per household is permitted. Booking must be made between December 6, 1996 and April 16, 1997 and a minimum of 10 days before the intended date of travel. Travel must be completed by April 30, 1997.

*Free Eurostar tickets are subject to seat availability. Travel is excluded from December 20, 1996 to January 5, 1997 and March 25, 1997 to April 10, 1997 inclusive. Connecting services to Waterloo for £10 return apply to free ticket users only, on selected services. Abridged terms and conditions will appear again on November 16. Full terms and conditions will be in your information pack. A valid 10-year passport or visa is required.

CHANGING TIMES

Reports that echo in history

I CAN still recall the emotion in the voice of Fergal Keane as he reported from South Africa for the BBC two years ago on the election that swept Nelson Mandela to power after the long years of apartheid. His reporting was all the more powerful for being so personal and for summoning from the experience of his years in South Africa the sense among black Africans that they were at last entering their destiny. As all good reporters ought to be, Keane was as excited as they were.

On that great day Keane had been reporting from Africa for the BBC for several years. As all good reporters ought to be, he had refused to be chained to a desk and had got out and about to meet blacks and whites. Two years earlier he had observed President de Klerk's whites-only referendum which voted for an end to minority rule and broadcast back to Britain a typical Keane report.

"As the whites inflicted a code of racial supremacy on the black man," he reported, "the world inflicted its moral apartheid on them. They were of Africa, yet had cut themselves off from it. They yearned for the fellowship of nations, yet were shut out. That was until yesterday. In one great leap, the whites came back to Africa and the world. It was not only F. W. de Klerk's triumph, it was a

PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur

victory for ordinary people, because the choice to reject racism and embrace peaceful coexistence was a deeply personal one."

If journalism is the first, rough draft of history, Keane's skill as a reporter is to show that it can still survive scrutiny and still read well years later. The best of his reports from Africa and Asia are being published this month in a new Penguin book (*Letter to Daniel*, £6.99) to coincide with *No Man is an Island*, his Radio 4 series starting on November 18. They show the quality of the best of British reporting whether in newspapers or radio and TV.

Harold Evans, the former Editor of *The Sunday Times* who was back in Britain last week, would have recognised Keane's talent. Addressing the Guild of Editors, he was as convinced as ever that editors could — indeed must — be a power for good. They were in powerful positions and set the temper of the times. Mr Evans, now president of Random House in New York, one of the biggest

American publishing companies, told his audience of regional editors, as he steered towards a simple but classic definition of what editing was about.

"Editing is all about judgments of what to put in and what to leave out, who to hire and who not to hire, who to listen to and who to resist. It is the editor who has to define news values. Judgments have to be made on what is important. Ultimately they have to be moral judgments: this story is more relevant than that to the health, happiness, well-being and fulfilment of people's lives."

AS EDITORS make those judgments of whom to hire, they recognise that good reporters are still as important as good columnists. All great editors recognise outstanding reporting, still the most basic and often the most underrated skill of any journalist, and still, too, the basic job of any newspaper. A vivid report from the battlefield sets the pulse of a newsroom racing — and also sells newspapers, as has been demonstrated in some

of the reports from Afghanistan.

A rough draft of history: Afghanistan, 1996: "The orphanage has not a single toy, not one game, no heating or lighting and precious little food. The children have tea and dry bread for breakfast. For lunch and dinner, there is peas, beans and rice. There is no money for meat: the institution has faced a financial crisis since Taleban captured Kabul. Children sit on benches in silence at ranks of bare tables. The lone woman fusses around — a heroine who could be flogged or lose a limb for this kindness."

That was Christopher Thomas in this newspaper last month. Equally vivid reports from Afghanistan in other national newspapers suggest that the skills of reporting are still valued.

"Just tell the story" was the best advice I ever got from a news editor when I was a reporter struggling with a difficult news report. Yet the skills of Keane and Thomas and so many others are not just in telling stories but in seeing what the stories are and telling them so eloquently that they remain in the memory.

● The year-on-year comparison of September sales of the Daily Star reported on October 10 was wrong. If the Republic of Ireland is included, sales in September this year were 71,557, an increase of 10,662 (2 per cent).

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6 1996

Al Fayed buys 25% stake in Alpha Airports for £52m



Al Fayed: surprise move

MOHAMED AL FAYED stepped up his diversification programme yesterday with the surprise purchase of 25 per cent of Alpha Airports from Granada for £52.3 million. The owner of Harrods and Punch magazine may launch a full offer for the tax-free airport retailer and flight catering group next year.

The purchase came as a shock to Alpha, which had expected Granada to sell the stake to an airline or catering group. Mr Al Fayed's representatives began negotiating with Granada only about ten days ago.

Alpha said that the directors, who have not talked to Mr Fayed, had no immediate comment about his arrival. A spokesman would say only that "the shares have gone from an investor that has no interest in them to someone who does. That has got to be a positive development".

Granada sold almost 42 million Alpha shares for 125p each, against their Monday closing price of 104p and their 1994 flotation price of 140p, to Cylena Establishments, one of Mr Al Fayed's private holding companies. The shares closed up 11p at 105.1p. The purchase values the company at £209 million. Granada

will use the proceeds to reduce the debt taken on to buy Forte.

At Granada's insistence, Mr Al Fayed has agreed not to make an offer for the other 75 per cent of Alpha for at least six months. Granada was said to be concerned that Mr Fayed would quickly launch a takeover offer at a higher price, giving the impression that Granada had unloaded the shares at a bargain price.

Mr Al Fayed will not seek representation on Alpha's board, but a spokesman said that he or John MacArthur, the financial adviser who negotiated the deal on his behalf, would welcome an invitation.

If Mr Al Fayed buys all of Alpha, he probably would combine it with his own airport retailing and aviation services companies. Alpha, which reported pre-tax interim profits of £10 million on sales of £323 million, derives about half its business from tax-free airport shops that sell everything from books to Swatch watches. Harrods, through its small "signature" stores, is expanding into international airports.

Alpha's aviation ground services division, which fuels and cleans passenger aircraft, might fit well with Metro Business Aviation, a company bought by Mr Fayed last

year that services executive jets. Alpha's catering business, the largest supplier of in-flight meals in Britain, does not appear to have any strategic fit with any of Mr Al Fayed's companies.

He may, of course, decide to sell the Alpha stake to another airport retailing group. Interest in the sector is high. Last month, LVMH, the luxury goods company, bought the DFS Group, one of industry's largest players. In June, Swissair beat a rival bid from BAA to acquire the Alders chain of duty-free stores. Swissair manages a large number of BAA's duty-free shops.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	3921.1	(-7.0)
Yield	3.96%	
FTSE All share	1924.2	(-3.87)
Nikkei	20582.33	(-40.73)
New York	6090.87	(+40.19)
Dow Jones	714.25	(+7.52)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(-1/4%)
Long Bond	102 1/2%	(101 1/2%)
Yield	6.59%	(6.66%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Libor 3m	100 1/4%	(100 1/4%)
Future (Dec)		
STERLING		
New York	1.8487*	(1.8447)
London		
\$	1.5488	(1.5489)
DM	2.4952	(2.4919)
FF	1.4354	(1.4324)
Sfr	2.0995	(2.0903)
Yen	187.70	(187.40)
E index	91.4	(91.2)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.3200*	(1.3110)
FF	1.1230*	(1.1115)
Sfr	1.2783*	(1.2673)
Yen	114.18*	(113.85)
S index	87.1	(87.0)
Tokyo close Yen	113.85	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$22.06	(\$22.00)
GOLD		
London close	\$379.46	(\$378.95)

Northern doubt

THE likelihood that the competition authorities will launch an investigation into the hostile bid by CE Electric, the US group, for Northern Electric is growing. As doubts circulate in the City over the credit rating of CalEnergy, the majority partner in CE Electric, as the electricity regulator is about to close the consultation period over the bid. A spokeswoman for the regulator said he would make the financial security of the company a priority.

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M&S to take on 2,000 new staff

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER is to take on 2,000 new staff this year in a push to improve levels of service in its stores. The news triggered worries about increased overheads and sent Marks & Spencer shares tumbling 26p to 483p.

According to Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, the decision to create jobs was taken because "we want to grow the business and keep customers' confidence". He added: "This is not a price-led business, this is what suits us. We offer quality products and quality service. Surely, we could make more money by slashing costs but I'm not interested in the short term. Customers want innovation, value for money and good service."

Most of the new jobs, which will swell staff numbers in the UK to around 57,000, are being taken on to work in existing stores that are being expanded. The company created 1,500 jobs at its stores last year. According to Sir Richard: "Consumer confidence seems to be returning so we are working with suppliers to drive sales harder."

Pre-tax profits in the six months to September 28 were £430 million, up 11.6 per cent on the year. Sir Richard dismissed City disappointment with the profits, which most analysts had forecast to come in at between £420 million and £465 million, saying that the group had "finished exactly where we thought we would". He said that those who had predicted profit growth of as much as 21 per cent were "naïve".

M&S said that the increase in costs resulting from the extra staff would be in line with sales growth. Analysts said the company was right to take on extra staff but that they had not been given a clear

idea of exactly how large the increase in overheads would be over the year. Most trimmed full-year forecasts to around £1.1 billion.

The company will continue to expand abroad. Four new stores are to be opened in Spain, taking the total to nine. Sales at the group's first German store, which opened in Cologne three weeks ago, are ahead of expectations, while M&S is looking for sites for stores in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Essen and Hamburg, Keith Oates, deputy chairman, said.

In the US, Brooks Brothers made an operating profit of £1.1 million, compared with a loss of £2.5 million a year ago. But an operating loss in Canada deepened to £3.7 million, compared with £2.5 million a year ago. In Hong Kong, footage will increase by 60 per cent next year.

Within the UK, sales of clothing, footwear and gifts grew 8.8 per cent to £1.5 billion, home furnishings by 27 per cent to £1.04 billion and foods by 6.6 per cent to £1.23 billion.

Sir Richard said that the extended store in Newcastle had been "a tremendous success and typifies the approach we are taking to our top 50 stores, creating major departmental stores". Newcastle and the new store in the City of London, which is taking around £1 million a week, "demonstrates that there are still many opportunities for growth in the UK," he added.

M&S Financial Services produced profits of £33 million, up 25 per cent. The interim dividend was increased 10 per cent, to 3.3p, on earnings per share of 10.4p (9.4p).

Pennington, page 27



Forward looking: Sir Colin Marshall, left, and Bob Ayling, with cabin crew Linda Page, front, Jill Banks and Liz Foad

BA wins Air Liberté fight as profits rise to record

By Paul Durman

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday won its tussle with Richard Branson's Virgin Express for the right to rescue Air Liberté, the insolvent French airline.

A French court backed the BA plan that will see it invest £440 million (£55 million) for a two-thirds stake in Air Liberté. Groupe Rivaud, the banking group, is also putting up FF190 million.

The news came hours after BA announced record half-year results, with pre-tax profits rising by 9.3 per cent to £470 million. However, operating profits fell by 2.1 per cent to £512 million. BA said it was held back by a £51 million increase in fuel costs. It also said it lost an estimated £15

million from passengers who switched airlines because of the threatened pilots' strike during the summer.

BA hopes the Air Liberté deal will help it to make money from its existing French operation, TAT European Airlines. Together, TAT and Air Liberté will have a 22 per cent share of the French domestic market from Paris Orly airport. The rescue will save 1,250 jobs.

BA announced plans to expand Air Liberté, with extra flights from Paris Orly and Nice. TAT and Air Liberté will be run separately, at least initially. Marc Rochet, chairman of TAT, will take on the same role at Liberté.

On BA's controversial link-

up with American Airlines, Bob Ayling, chief executive, said he would be "a bit disappointed" if the deal had not passed the scrutiny of the UK competition authorities by the end of this month.

He said BA had made an offer to resolve its differences with US Air, its American associate which plans to terminate code-sharing arrangements because of its anger over the AA deal. BA does not expect to be badly damaged by the loss of travellers from US Air.

BA has increased its interim dividend by 10.4 per cent to 4.25p, payable on January 31.

Court victory, page 26
Temps, page 28
Staff depressed, page 29

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Pound surge threatens rise in manufacturing output

By Alasdair Murray

MANUFACTURING output jumped by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter — the first quarterly increase this year — signalling that the sector is finally beginning a tentative recovery.

Output rose by 0.3 per cent in September, taking the annual rate to 0.2 per cent, according to data published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics. But analysts believe the sector is still vulnerable to further interest rate rises and the strengthening pound. Sterling continued its rise, with the trade weighted index closing at 91.4 from an overnight 91.2. At one stage the pound climbed above the symbolically important

DM250, before closing at DM249.79, although gains were more modest against the dollar, with sterling closing at \$1.6468.

Economists said the rise in manufacturing output showed that the high street pick-up was finally feeding through to manufacturers and that the sector was running down stocks.

Recent business surveys, which have highlighted improving expectations and rising order books, point to a continuing pick-up in manufacturing over the next few months. But Alex Garrard, UK economist at UBS, said: "Sterling's strength threatens to cut off the export leg of the

manufacturing revival in its infancy and to put the onus on the consumer to deliver a recovery."

The fastest growth in the manufacturing sector came from consumer durables which rose 1.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 4.1 per cent year-on-year. But consumer durables account for only 5 per cent of the total sector and economists say there is no guarantee that growth in this area would be sufficient to ensure the recovery of manufacturing as a whole.

Industrial output, which includes oil and gas production, rose 0.5 per cent in September, lifted by high North Sea output.

Scottish TV bid for Grampian fails

By Jason Nisse

TALKS expected to lead to an agreed bid of more than £100 million by Scottish TV for its northern neighbour, Grampian TV, have broken down.

Grampian shares soared almost 20 per cent in a fortnight in anticipation of a Scottish offer. It is now expected to be the subject of a bid from the Barclay Brothers.

The secretive twins, who live in Monte Carlo, own two of Scotland's leading newspapers, *The Scotsman* based in Edinburgh and *The Press & Journal* in Aberdeen, where Grampian is based.

The sticking point in the talks between Scottish and Grampian is understood to have been price. Gus Macdonald, the chief executive of

Scottish, believes that the current market valuations of Grampian, which at a closing share price of 319p yesterday stand at £105 million, are at least as much as Scottish would be prepared to pay.

Scottish, 20 per cent owned by Mirror Group, is currently in a strong financial position, despite completing the £120 million purchase of Caledonian Publishing, owner of *The Herald* in Glasgow, just three weeks ago. It followed that deal by selling its 20 per cent stake in ITV Group, the ITV franchisee in Wales and the West Country, to United News & Media for £73.7 million.

Any offer is bound to make millionaires of the people who run Grampian.

Directors' pay rises at twice rate of workforce

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY directors' pay is rising at more than twice the rate of pay generally, a new report on boardroom earnings shows today — in spite of moves by the government-backed Greenbury inquiry to limit executive pay excesses. But the new study shows that key recommendations of the inquiry headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, are being adopted increasingly by British companies.

The latest survey of directors' salaries and benefits, by Bacon & Woodrow, the consultants,

shows that pay rises for directors in the year to the end of June were running at 7.6 per cent — around twice the rate of pay rises in the economy generally, which independent pay analysts suggest are now running at 3-4 per cent. The figure is also marginally higher than last year's increase for directors in the survey of 7.5 per cent.

A detailed breakdown of the figures shows that company chief executives are taking slightly lower rises at 6.6 per cent, while increases for directors generally are higher, at 8.7 per cent. Pay levels for directors are put at an average of £117,829, and for chief executives at £204,133. But fixed benefits, such as

pensions, company cars and medical insurance push up basic pay levels by an average of 50 per cent, while variable bonuses add, on average, a further 23 per cent. Some individuals surveyed had a total remuneration package worth twice their basic salary. The average total package for company directors is £201,421 — up 9.8 per cent. For chief executives, the rise was 7.9 per cent, to give a new average level of £351,803.

Looking at share options, the average value for main board directors was £318,046 and £672,696 for chief executives. Ten per cent of the sample of more than 700 business leaders in over 100 companies saw gains from exercising their share options, with the average gain

£56,000. While only 10 per cent have switched to have term bonuses paid in shares, as the Greenbury inquiry recommended, only two-fifths of those in the survey owned shares in their own company. But a number of companies have begun to tailor their remuneration policies in line with those recommended by Greenbury, especially on length of contracts.

Two years ago, two-fifths of chief executives held contracts of three years or longer, but it is now down to 15 per cent. Lynn Hendry, Bacon & Woodrow's senior pay and benefits consultant, says: "There has been a shift to two-year contracts, but there is a reluctance to reduce to one year, as favoured by Greenbury."

City expects Northern Electric bid to be foiled

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of the hostile bid for Northern Electric being blocked grew yesterday. High on the agenda of Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, will be the financial security of CE Electric, the American bidder.

In the City it is expected that the bid will end up at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because of concern over the credit rating of CalEnergy, majority partner of CE Electric. CalEnergy is effectively junk-rated in the US where its debt is graded by Standard & Poor's, the rating agency, as BB — below investment standard.

The fact that the bid target is itself highly indebted after its last defence against a hostile bid will also weigh on the regulator's mind. A spokeswoman for the electricity watchdog said: "Financial security of the regulated company will be a prime consideration. He must be assured that it is economically sound and stable." Professor

Littlechild tomorrow ends his consultation process before making his recommendation to the Office of Fair Trading. In his submission he is also likely to highlight the regulatory impact of the loss of another independent electricity company.

In addition to those considerations will be the political dimension that the Government is likely to want to avoid controversy over a hostile bid just ahead of a general election. One analyst said: "There is a strong feeling that this one will be blocked. There is a high probability that the Government will be keen to avoid a hostile takeover by a company whose majority partner is seen as an aggressive operator in the US and has a poor debt rating."

A significant number of small shareholders are thought to have contacted Offer over the deal. Small shareholders hold about 12 per cent of Northern shares.

Shares in Northern dropped 2½p to 632½p as CE Electric posted its offer document. David Sokol, chairman and chief executive of CE Electric, reaffirmed the 630p a share bid which has been rejected by Northern as too low. His justifications included the uncertainty shrouding electricity because of the threat of a windfall tax from a potential Labour government and greater competition in supply after 1998.

David Morris, chairman of Northern, said: "CalEnergy itself recognises the strategic and commercial advantages which Northern would bring to it. But it is trying to buy these benefits on the cheap."

Northern is poised to launch a drip-feed of information into the market, starting with early interim results, in an effort to raise its value in the City.

Pennington, page 27



Trevor Smallwood, left, executive chairman, and Moir Lockhead have ordered 914 buses

FirstBus places £80m order

By OUR CITY STAFF

FIRSTBUS, Britain's largest bus operator, has placed an £80 million order for 914 new vehicles. A total of 584 vehicles, worth £50 million, have been ordered for the year to the end of March 1998 with an initial order of 330 vehicles worth £30 million for the next

year. The orders include 423 double and single deck vehicles, 257 midi buses and 213 mini buses.

The majority of the single deck and midi buses have kneeling suspension, lowering the bus for ease of access. Vehicle manufacturers that

have received orders include Volvo, Optare, Scania, Dennis Dart, Mercedes, Alexander and Plaxton.

Moir Lockhead, the chief executive of FirstBus, said the company had already invested £87 million in new vehicles since April 1995.

Calls for new tally on jobless rejected

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday resisted strong pressure from Britain's principal statisticians and a Commons select committee to publish an alternative monthly count of unemployment.

Ministers rejected calls from both the Royal Statistical Society and the all-party Employment Select Committee to announce each month statistically valued survey-based measures of unemployment in tandem with the monthly count of the number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

Both the RSS and the Commons committee have cast strong doubt on the monthly claimant count as an accurate portrayal of current unemployment, and, in a response to the select committee's report yesterday, the Government said it was "to be regretted" that the claimant count was no longer trusted by some commentators.

But the Department for Education and Employment rejected calls for the unemployment figures produced by the Labour Force Survey — a sample of 60,000 households — to be published monthly, instead quarterly.

The department said in the committee in a report published yesterday that moving to monthly publication of the LFS would cost an additional £7 million to £8 million, and it said: "Whatever the statistical merits of such a development, it cannot, at present, be a priority for additional public expenditure."

But the Government said it would be asking the Office for National Statistics to come forward with proposals to speed up the publication of the quarterly LFS. Currently, selected preliminary results are published some six weeks after the survey is carried out, with full results later. But the department yesterday said it would ask the ONS to begin from the second half of next year to run the full results at the time the preliminary findings are currently published.

The Government also rejected the idea of a lower-cost monthly publication of LFS figures on unemployment, drawn from monthly estimates based on averages from the previous three months.

New-look Grid to cut jobs

The National Grid yesterday began to implement a restructuring that is expected to lose 800 of the 4,000 staff in a cost-cutting drive lasting until 2001. The first losses are likely to come next April.

Yesterday's first step in the reshaping began with the streamlining of the transmission organisation and management.

Systems and project management, network services, engineering, commercial and system strategy will be directed by Roger Urwin, at present managing director of transmission. Colin Gibson, current power network director, is to lose his position on the board and will lead commercial and system strategy.

Super power

J. Sainsbury, the supermarket chain which has led a campaign against electricity meter charges, has switched supplier. The company, which spends about £57 million a year on electricity, moved from ScottishPower and Yorkshire Electricity to Northern Electric. Northern, which is facing a hostile bid from CE Electric, the US grouping, is the only regional electricity company to have joined protests from retailers and industrial power users over charges made for meters which allow electricity to be bought competitively.

Rolls' orders

International Aero Engines, in which Rolls-Royce is a major shareholder, yesterday announced orders from two customers for V2500 engines worth up to £260 million. Rolls-Royce's share of the contracts from China and Singapore is worth around £91 million.

Yarrow cuts

More than 200 jobs are to be lost at the Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde because of a decline in orders. It is the third round of redundancies this year and will take the workforce to under 2,000.

First Leisure bingo clubs hit by lottery

By FRASER NELSON

FIRST LEISURE, the diversified leisure group, yesterday said that its bingo clubs were continuing to lose ground to the National Lottery, pushing the division's profits well below expectations.

The caution worried analysts who had thought that the drop in bingo turnover was easing. It also fuelled concern for the company's plans to double its bingo clubs portfolio over the next 18 months, as part of a £100 million investment programme.

John Conlan, First Leisure's chief executive, said he expected that the fortunes of its bingo

clubs should be restored by deregulation of the market. He added that he expects the current advertising restrictions to be lifted early next year.

The company's sports, nightclubs and fitness division delivered strong results, in line with expectations, which Mr Conlan attributed to an upturn in consumer spending. He said the progress had been interrupted by the Euro '96 football tournament, as its customers preferred watching the football to using the company's facilities. First Leisure shares fell 9p to 360½p.

Dividend reflects efficiency drive, says Anglian Water

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANGLIAN WATER yesterday announced a 14.6 per cent interim dividend increase and sought to defend its record of customer service.

The interim dividend, due on February 17, is being lifted to 10.2p a share from 8.9p. Pre-tax profits advanced 5.5 per cent to £132.7 million in the six months to September 30.

Robin Gourlay, Anglian's chairman, said: "Our dividend increase reflects the continued improvements being made in the efficiency of the regulated business and the board's confidence that fur-

ther cost savings can be achieved."

The company raised operating profits on its regulated businesses 11.8 per cent to £171.6 million. But it suffered a further drain in its international activities, which are not regulated, as extra marketing and bidding costs took their toll, with losses deepening 44 per cent to £6.5 million.

Mr Gourlay said Anglian was committed to pulling the operations, which stretch from China to Australia, into profit. But he admitted: "The restoration of our process engineer-

ing and product companies to profitability has been slower than we had hoped."

The company said it spent £76.5 million on water resources, £25.7 million on sewerage, £23.8 million on sewage treatment and £16.6 million on bathing water.

It highlighted recent reports indicating that 84 per cent of its customers were satisfied with the company's service. Anglian is to spend £2 million per year to tackle leakage, with a target of 10 per cent by 1999-2000, compared with the present rate of 13 per cent.

Former policeman faces £50,000 court bill after losing injury case

BA brands Gorman a professional claimant

By JOANNA BALE AND
PAUL DURMAN



John Gorman says he will battle on against BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday branded John Gorman, the former policeman who has fought a three-year campaign against alleged harassment, a fraudster and a professional claimant.

BA made the accusation — repeated by its chief executive at the group's results briefing yesterday — as Mr Gorman's personal injury claim for damages was thrown out by the Central London County Court. Mr Gorman was in a hospital bed in Tenerife, having collapsed last Thursday, and was unable to attend the hearing.

Judge Medawar, QC, awarded costs, estimated at between £50,000 and

£60,000, against Mr Gorman. The judge dismissed the case because, he said, he had seen no medical evidence that Mr Gorman was ill.

Mr Gorman said that he would be unable to meet the costs because he is on a police pension after being injured in the IRA bombing in Brighton in 1984. He said that his partner had, by fax, informed the court and BA's solicitors of his condition shortly after he collapsed last week. The Times has seen copies of some of the faxes.

Mr Gorman said that he intended to continue his legal battle. "If BA had nothing to worry about, surely they would have agreed to an adjournment until I'm back on my feet again," he added. The hearing yesterday stems from

injuries that Mr Gorman claims to have suffered after swallowing glass in a drink during a BA flight to New York in 1993.

Robert Webb, QC, representing BA, told the court that Mr Gorman's claim was "fraudulently made by a professional claimant". Mr Webb said that Mr Gorman had also made 81 claims against PPP Healthcare, the medical insurer. Any injuries he suffered were minimal, Mr Webb said.

Mr Gorman, 50, says he has been the victim of a BA dirty tricks campaign. He was beaten up at his former home in Enfield, Middlesex, received a string of abusive calls, many of which were traced by BT's telephone surveillance unit to BA offices and he has been constantly harassed. BA denies these claims.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

More buys Swedish advertiser for £78.1m

MORE GROUP, the UK outdoor advertising company, is acquiring Wennergren-Williams, the largest outdoor advertising business in Scandinavia, for £78.1 million. More is raising £48.6 million via a rights issue, offering one new share for every four held at 600p each, to fund part of the cash consideration. The balance will be financed by a new £30 million bank facility. Wennergren-Williams, which is based in Sweden, earned operating income of £6 million in 1995.

More Group, which owns the Adshel brand in Britain, already operates in the Republic of Ireland, Belgium and Taiwan. Last month the company acquired SHF Communications, based in New York. Roger Parry, chief executive of More Group, said the acquisition of Wennergren-Williams would enhance the development of the Adshel business and brand in international markets. More Group shares fell 13½p to 684p yesterday.

Sale by News Corp

THE News Corporation has completed the sale of \$1 billion of exchangeable trust-originated preferred securities (TOPS) to institutional investors in America. The TOPS represent interests in subordinated debt securities of News America Holdings and warrants to purchase 92.64 million ordinary shares, or 15.44 million American Depositary Shares, of British Sky Broadcasting, in which News Corp has a 40 per cent interest. The exercise price of the warrants marks a premium of 20 per cent over yesterday's closing price of BSkyB ordinary shares of 599p. News Corp is the parent company of The Times.

PIA leak hunter named

SIR BRIAN CUBBON, former permanent private secretary at the Home Office, has been appointed to investigate a leak of highly sensitive information on personal pension mis-selling from the Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for firms selling direct to the public. The PIA board paper contained confidential information about the lack of progress being made by major life offices in paying compensation to investors who were wrongly advised to transfer out of, or not join, their generous occupational schemes in favour of a personal pension plan.

BAT helps inquiry

BAT INDUSTRIES, the UK tobacco and financial services company, is co-operating with investigations into its Indian partner after charges of financial fraud, detectives in New Delhi said yesterday. The Enforcement Directorate said that it would not prosecute BAT as the company had promised to co-operate with investigators questioning executives of the Indian Tobacco Co (ITC), in which it holds a 31 per cent stake, over allegations of breaching local currency laws to the tune of \$100 million. Y.C. Deveshwar, the ITC chairman, is among those being questioned.

Powerscreen targets US

POWERSCREEN INTERNATIONAL, the engineering company based in Northern Ireland, is searching for acquisitions to expand its North American activities. Pat Dooley, sales and marketing director, said Powerscreen is "waiting for the right one to come along". Mr Dooley was speaking after the company announced a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £20.4 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover rose 25 per cent to £152 million and earnings increased 19 per cent to 17.3p a share. The interim dividend rises 12 per cent to 2.8p a share, payable on February 13.

Dairy Crest increases

DAIRY CREST GROUP, the dairy products company floated earlier this year, achieved a 7.1 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £16.5 million in the half-year to September 30. The company is paying a maiden interim dividend of 3.26p a share. Earnings were 10.5p a share, excluding the impact of exceptional flotation costs of £900,000, against a pro forma 9.3p. While turnover to consumer foods increased by 22 per cent to £218.3 million, food services, which sell ingredients to food manufacturers and doorstep liquid milk operations, fell by 8 per cent to £163.3 million.

Setback at Bellway

BELLWAY, the housebuilder, saw pre-tax profits fall to £32.2 million (£34 million) in the year to the end of July, reflecting difficult trading conditions in the housing market. However, the company said that it was encouraged by the improvement in market sentiment in recent months. There is a final dividend of 5.65p a share, lifting the total to 8.2p (7.7p) despite a fall in earnings to 20p (21.4p) a share. The company, which acquired a 4.8 per cent stake in Wainhomes in January said that it continued to hold the shares as an investment.

NatWest HK buyout

NATWEST MARKETS, the global corporate and investment banking arm of NatWest Group, is to buy out Wheelock's interest in Wheelock NatWest, the joint venture in Hong Kong, established in the second half of 1995. NatWest said the early restructuring of the venture reflected "a number of changes in the industry, and in the overall regulatory environment for securities trading businesses, coupled with an increased focus by Wheelock NatWest on such activities". WN had net assets of £38.33 million at December 31.

Frederick Cooper loss

FREDERICK COOPER, the specialist coatings, housewares and architectural hardware company, incurred pre-tax losses of £12 million (£3.98 million profit) in the year to July 31 after an exceptional charge of £10 million relating to the sale of its electrical products division and the closure of a subsidiary. Further disposals are to take place. At the operating level profits fell to £5 million from £6.1 million. The loss was 41.5p a share, against earnings of 3p. The total dividend is 2.8p (2.7p) per share, with a 1.9p final.

	Bank	Bank
	Buyer	Seller
Australia \$	2.15	2.03
Austria Sch	16.48	18.88
Belgium Fr	54.18	49.88
Canada \$	2.38	2.148
Denmark Kr	0.780	0.736
France F	8.04	7.38
Germany DM	2.84	2.43
Greece Dr	407	382
Hong Kong \$	13.57	12.37
India Ru	71.5	65
Ireland P	1.05	0.97
Italy Lit	5.94	4.58
Japan Yen	200	180
Netherlands Gld	0.628	0.578
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.08
Norway Kr	2.47	2.28
Portugal Esc	10.50	10.10
Spain Ptas	165.50	150.00
Switzerland Fr	2.21	2.03
Swedish Kr	1.00	0.95
Taiwan NTD	160.00	150.00
UK £	1.00	1.00

Notes for article: The above table shows only the most significant changes in the exchange rates of the major currencies against the pound sterling. For a full list of rates, see the daily newspaper.

□ Marks & Spencer defies short-term City □ Little to recommend some analysts □ Currency moves limit Gehe

Decoding the Kremlin's message

□ HOW absolutely typical — the final confirmation for those who hold the Will Hutton view of the City as obsessed with short-term profits at the expense of long-term growth. One of Britain's most successful companies, with one of the best brand names on earth, is going to hire 2,000 more staff to serve its customers better. The teenage scribbles immediately scurry away muttering into their mobile phones, and by the end of the day the shares are the biggest faller in the FTSE 100 index.

Except that the company in question is Marks & Spencer, and so nothing is quite so simple. Marks has an extraordinary reputation among the nation's shoppers for quality and excellence, and an equally strong reputation in the City for reticence and unhelpfulness. The Kremlin, retail analysts call the company, and the skills of the Kremlin-watcher are needed to follow its fortunes.

Consider this exchange. Sir Richard Greenbury, the current Polittbury head, commented in his statement accompanying interim figures that "consumer confidence seems to be returning". One analyst responded: "For people normally as tight-mouthed as M&S, that's probably quite positive." Probably?

The City's main concern was that the costs of hiring new staff

to man the checkouts would dilute earnings. So far, so short-term, but the M&S interim came in below some estimates, which suggests that the extra cost is already hitting. There were also doubts about second-quarter food sales, even though these were 7 per cent up in the first half, because the hot August turned the nation's appetites away from pre-packaged food.

Marks was indeed vague on the exact costs, and unhelpful on current trading. That is its right: the company's insularity has been bred out of its extraordinary success, and the rise in the share price this year from £4 to above £5 before yesterday's fall does not suggest any need to be more forthcoming, especially with margins still running at a level of 12 per cent that other retailers can only dream of.

There are three other worries, longer term. Marks is faced with the same squeeze on its home turf as the other big retailers, a lack of suitable sites and tighter planning controls. There is a limit to how much business one store can provide, no matter how many staff are employed there. The

wisdom of more recent overseas expansion is still unproven, even if the 1983 purchase of Brooks Brothers is finally coming round. Marks may be popular with visitors to this country, but retail patterns in Germany or Australia are different.

The third concern is in the boardroom. Sir Richard seems to have singled out two potential successors in Andrew Stone and Keith Cates, but City-watchers say while his preference seems to lean towards Stone, the two, they are uncertain whether either is suitable for the job. But then, succession at the Kremlin can be fraught with uncertainty.

Poverty in research

□ MOST brokers' research is not worth the paper it is printed on. This is true in the City, and even truer on Wall Street, where overzealous regulation means that companies are forbidden from telling the market anything useful. That trend is gaining pace in London, and the result is the emergence of a new breed of



analyst who spends his or her time pawing through charts and other statistics in the office rather than talking to the companies they are supposed to be researching. (Fortunately, the breed is easy to spot: both sexes favour round, steel-rimmed glasses and are invariably teetotal.)

If research is poor in the City, and only about half a dozen analysts in any sector are worth listening to, then it is far worse in the so-called "emerging markets", as covered by brokers from the developed world newly arrived there. This is the clearest conclusion from a survey of these markets from Tempest Consultants, compiled on behalf of Reuters. Tempest produces a range of useful studies asking

companies what they think of fund managers in various markets, and what both think of the brokers that are supposed to act as go-betweens between the two. Companies in emerging markets read such research assiduously — they would, wouldn't they?

How can an executive in an out-of-the-way country resist finding out what one of the financial world's heavy hitters thinks of his company? They don't think much of the results. Their disillusion is matched by the big fund managers from overseas, who find the views of supposedly specialist brokers pretty useless in putting together an investment strategy in areas they are unfamiliar with.

Such disappointment is inevitable. Good quality brokers' research is the result of years of contact with the relevant company, not a few months' residence and a vague skate over the economic statistics. This is even more true on less developed and volatile exchanges. So successful fund managers are carrying out their research in-house, and ignoring that from outside. Bear this in mind the next time a get-

rich-quick brokers' recommendation to punt on a Third World market flops on to your desk or through the letterbox.

Appreciating bid costs

□ THE Chancellor of the Exchequer can be thanked for the higher offer from Gehe, the German business, for the Lloyds Chemists chain, now the matter is finally through the competition mill. But few thanks will come from Lloyds shareholders, who are getting the same £5 a share on offer in February.

The cost of buying Lloyds is up by £70 million because this is the difference between the offer for the company in marks and the price now after an 11 per cent depreciation of the German currency. This has limited Gehe's room for manoeuvre, and required the high-risk strategy of putting in a cash bid worth about the same as the shares on offer from UniChem, the other bidder. Despite earlier protestations that they were losing interest, the Germans are still very much in

the race, and as a private concern they do not have institutional shareholders concerned that they might overpay. But the action on the foreign exchanges has required them to draw back from a knockout price.

The betting must be that UniChem will go for a higher bid. At the moment it is a straight choice between UniChem shares and Gehe cash, and in these toppy markets cash will tend to win. But with Lloyds shares still trading at more than either offer is worth, investors who are not prepared to gamble on UniChem raising its terms should think about selling in the market.

Shocking rule

□ IT HAS been said here before that it is a funny regulatory system that would allow the Medellín cocaine cartel to buy into a British utility while blocking the water company next door. That is not to cast any doubt on the Midwestern moral rectitude of CalEnergy, of Nebraska, bidding for Northern Electric. But doubts have been raised about the quality and size of its debt. Strictly speaking, only the electricity regulator can raise the public interest as a reason for referring the bid to the Monopolies Commission. He needs no excuse to look very closely at the American company's finances.

Whitbread given lift by surge in consumer spend

BY FRASER NELSON

WHITBREAD, the leisure conglomerate, reported its strongest interim profits yesterday, bolstered by a resurgence in consumer spending which helped it to achieve growth in each division.

A strong performance by newly acquired businesses helped to lift pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £178 million in the six months to August 31. Earnings were 27.5p per share, up from 24.1p, and the interim dividend is increased to 6.25p a share, from 5.75p, due on January 20.

Peter Jarvis, chief executive, said the company was well placed to profit from a boom in consumer spending which, he predicted, should last two or three years. He said: "Unless we have a catastrophe, the prospects in Britain are good. All the economic predictions from the banks point to low inflation and growing consumer confidence."

The sharpest growth was delivered by the greatly expanded restaurants and leisure division, which includes TGI Friday, Thresher, Beef-

ester restaurants, and Travel Inns. Its pre-tax profits were 58 per cent stronger, at £56.3 million.

Marriott Hotels, the UK franchise of which Whitbread bought last year for £186 million, increased its yield per room to £47.92 from £41.20 last year. Mr Jarvis also pointed out that the company had paid the equivalent of £55,000 a room for Marriott, against Thistle Hotels's £77,000-a-room valuation on its stockmarket debut, and the £140,000 a room that Stakis recently paid for Lorn's Metropolitan chain.

Whitbread's share of the beer market rose half a percentage point to 14.5 per cent. Profits from the beer division gained 12.4 per cent to £30.8 million. However, its pub partnerships returned flat profits of £30.7 million, in spite of a 69 million investment over the financial year.

However, profits grew 15.2 per cent to £77.4 million at its Inns division. Mr Jarvis said trading at the Inns had been lifted by the company's drive to attract more women and families. Citing a report entitled *The Future is Female*, he said Whitbread's Inns were much more female-friendly, adding that some now housed nappy-changing facilities.

Over the six months the company opened 70 outlets, including 14 Travel Inns and 3 TGI Fridays. Gearing doubled to 27 per cent, reflecting the cost of acquisitions, and borrowings rose to £640 million from £296 million.

Whitbread is currently in takeover negotiations with Brightons, which owns Pizzaland and Bella Pasta. Mr Jarvis said the talks should conclude by the year end.

City Diary, page 29
Tempest, page 28

MAM poised for bumper bonuses

BY ROBERT MILLER

A 29 PER CENT increase to £82 million in half-time profits at Mercury Asset Management (MAM) puts key staff and fund managers in line for year-end multi-million-pound bonuses.

The results from the successful independent investment house means that bonuses and pay could exceed last year's total "compensation" package of £68.5 million. MAM is rated one of the most generous payers of bonuses in the City, but unlike many of its competitors includes a large element of deferred equity payments designed to lock in star performers for the longer term.

Hugh Stevenson, chairman of MAM, which yesterday reported a 28 per cent increase in earnings per share to 30.9p in the six months to September 30, attacked the growing cult of "the star" in the City as

dangerous. "That is why Mercury is run in a very collegiate manner, with the emphasis on the input of the team as a whole and the successes therefore attributable to teamwork."

MAM celebrated the half-year results by lifting the interim payout to 10p compared with 6p in the same period last year. MAM, which will pay the dividend on January 3, said, however, that the steep rise was a bid to reduce the imbalance between the interim and final dividends.

Funds under management increased to £85.9 billion from £70.9 billion last time, including net new business of £2 billion, while turnover was up 26 per cent to £162.5 million. Mr Stevenson refused to rule out the possibility of an acquisition if the "right group came along at the right price".

BP chief warns against oil windfall tax as profits leap

BY CARL MORTISHED

SIR David Simon, chairman of BP, yesterday cautioned the Government against a windfall tax on oil profits after the company revealed that its third-quarter operating profits from producing oil and gas had risen 33 per cent to £161 million.

Rising oil production and a \$3.4 per barrel increase in crude oil prices contributed to the gain, which was partly offset by a downturn in chemicals and a flat result from refining compared with last

time. BP's replacement cost net profit before exceptional items was £650 million, up 9 per cent on a year ago. Profits for the nine months to September were £1.83 billion (£1.29 billion).

Sir David said: "It looks tempting for a government when you have an oil price spike — there is a great opportunity to raise short-term cash." However, he said a responsible government would see the benefits of a long-term fiscal policy that had produced an extra 1

million barrels per day over estimates of four years ago.

BP Chemicals lifted operating profits by £16 million from the last quarter to £130 million. But profits fell from a high of £225 million in the third quarter last year because of weaker margins. Lower refining margins caused downstream profits to fall from £161 million a year ago to £151 million. There is a 5p quarterly dividend, maintained from the second quarter.

Tempest, page 28

Knight Williams delay

HUNDREDS of elderly investors in Knight Williams, the failed independent financial advisers, face a further wait of up to 12 months to receive compensation payments, it emerged yesterday after a creditors' meeting in London (Robert Miller writes).

The retirement income ad-



Tim How, Majestic's chief executive, noted that customers had become investors

Majestic entry on AIM

BY PAUL DURMAN

MAJESTIC WINE attracted more than three buyers for every one of the shares in its £4.4 million share placing.

The wine warehouse group, which is joining the Alternative Investment Market, yesterday, announced that Williams de Broe, its stockbroker, had priced the shares at 160p, valuing the company at £20.4 million.

Tim How, Majestic's chief executive, said: "A lot of investors knew us because they were customers." The group's 59 warehouses only sell wine by the case. Its staff, more than 80 per cent of whom are graduates, hold daily wine-tastings.

When dealings start on Monday, most of Majestic's shares will still be in the hands of John Apthorp and his family. Mr Apthorp, Majestic's chairman, founded the Bejam frozen food chain. His relatives are realising about £1.35 million in the placing, which will raise £2 million for the company.

Majestic made pre-tax profits of about £450,000 in the six months to September 30. It expects to make its first dividend payment in August and plans to have payouts three times covered by earnings.

Tempest, page 28

Gehe returns to fray in battle for pharmacist

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GEHE, the German pharmaceutical group, yesterday relaunched its bid for Lloyds Chemists, valuing the chain at £650 million. The offer is virtually equal in value to the latest cash-and-shares bid by UniChem, made more than a fortnight ago (See Pennington, this page).

Gehe's bid of 500p per ordinary share is also identical to the last one it made in March, before UniChem and the German company had their bids referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Both sides have now bid three times for Lloyds since January.

The rise in value of sterling against the Deutschmark means that Gehe's bid would now cost it more. In Deutschmark terms, the bid will cost DM1.59 billion instead of DM1.45 billion. However, it would be partly paid with sterling borrowings.

Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said: "I believe that our renewed offer of 500p per share in cash is notably generous given the deterioration in Lloyds Chemists' performance in the last financial year."

"Our offer reflects, however,

our evaluation of the strategic benefits and synergies arising from an acquisition of Lloyds Chemists, which we believe we are in the best position to exploit given our considerable experience at maximising synergies arising from major acquisitions and our strong financial position."

Lloyds Chemists responded to the Gehe bid by advising shareholders to "defer taking any action in relation to their shareholdings".

UniChem, meanwhile, said: "Despite Gehe's public questioning of the value of Lloyds Chemists over recent months, Gehe's offer confirms the underlying value of Lloyds Chemists." UniChem argued that its cash-and-share bid remains more attractive because it offers "continued investment in a growing healthcare sector".

Jeff Harris, chief executive of UniChem, said he was pleased that Gehe had relaunched its bid because "this ends the phoney war". Mr Harris expects to issue a UniChem offer document by Monday, but he did not rule out the possibility of UniChem increasing its bid for Lloyds Chemists.

We've always maintained that they attract interest.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

PowerGen surges back as regulatory worries ease

SHARES of PowerGen again lit up the screens of City traders as the group continued to extend its recent rally. The price raced up 13½p to 534p on turnover of more than 3.5 million shares but remains well below its peak of 608p.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, and rival Morgan Stanley are believed to have climbed on the bandwagon by singing the group's praises to clients after a similar recommendation by UBS.

It seems they are agreed that with such a strong yield, the shares have been oversold. Worries about price controls and other regulatory matters have been overcome. The same goes for rival National Power, 16p better at 417½p.

Mixed in with the euphoria was wild talk that PowerGen may find itself on the receiving end of a bid from the likes of Shell. The Scottish generators were also chased higher, with Scottish Power 3½p stronger at 315½p and Scottish Hydro 7½p dearer at 291p.

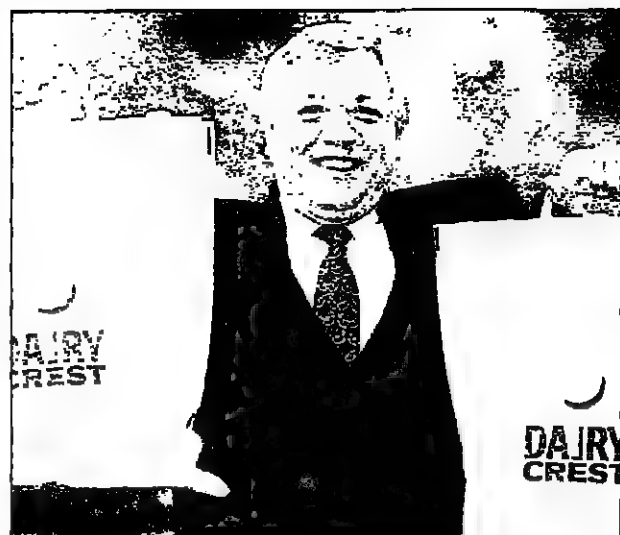
Share prices generally endured another lacklustre session, with investors in London waiting patiently as America went to the polls. The decision by Merrill Lynch, the broker, to switch from "overweight" to "neutral" was matched by a hedging move in the options market involving 25,000 contracts. One securities house bought for the "put" in the 4,300 series and sold the "call" in the 3,300 series.

In the event what little action there was focused on the second-liners, leaving the FT-SE 100 index nursing a 7-point point to 3,921.1.

Turnover reached 781 million shares, partly inspired by further heavy turnover in shares of BT on the back of the £12 billion proposed acquisition of MCI. The price slipped 3p to 370p as a further 38 million shares were traded. James Capel is said to have turned bullish of the shares.

The biggest casualty among the top 100 shares was Marks & Spencer, down 20p at 483p, after a cool reception to first-half figures. The 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £430 million was at the bottom end of expectations. Brokers said rising costs and the lack of price inflation in food had hit the bottom line. Nick Bubb at MessPierces, cutting his forecast for the full year by £50 million to £1.1 billion.

Whitbread fell 4p to 736½p in spite of half-year figures at



John Houston saw Dairy Crest raise half-year profits

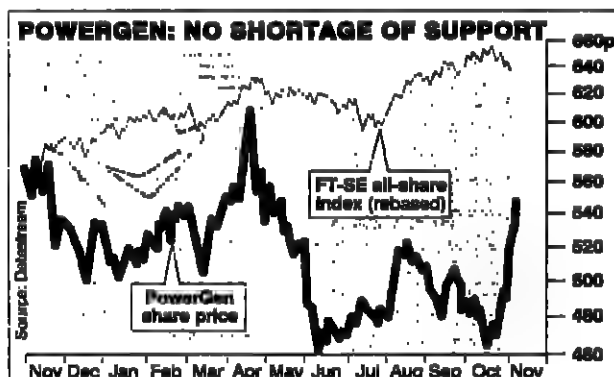
the top end of forecasts. Pre-tax profits were up £20 million at £178 million, leading brokers to upgrade forecasts for the full year.

Alpha Airports firmed 1½p to 105½p on the news that Mohammed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, had bought Granada's 25 per cent stake in the airport services and in-flight caterer. He has stumped up

Alexanders Holdings, the Scottish car distributor, rose 1p to 12½p on talk of a bid. An offer of 15p a share, valuing the company at almost £6 million, may be on the way. It would need the backing of Alexandra Clayton, chairman, who controls around 60 per cent of the shares. Such an offer is likely to be rejected.

£52.3 million, or 125p a share, for 41.8 million shares. Speculators say not to rule out the prospect of a full bid from another quarter such as BAA, 2p better at 503½p.

Lloyds Abbey slipped 2p to 623p as a protected trade went through on the ticker in 10.04 million shares at 613p. Brokers said selling into the market seemed a strange thing to do when the company



cash and shares, is also valued at around 500p. UniChem finished up 3½p at 255p.

The stronger oil price helped to boost third-quarter figures from BP, up 3p at 640½p. As with rival Shell, it was a case of upstream activities offsetting any setbacks on downstream operations. But the downstream, which includes chemicals and refining, were not as bad as feared. Shell ended 7½p to 583½p.

Rising fuel costs failed to put a dampener on second-quarter figures from British Airways, which finished 18½p dearer at 568p. Pre-tax profits came in at £320 million (£295 million), boosted by increased passenger revenue.

Profit taking on the back of a 30 per cent surge in profits at the halfway stage left Mercury Asset Management 20p down at 511.22½p.

Dairy Crest, whose chief executive is John Houston, failed to make headway despite a useful increase in profits at the halfway stage of £1.1 million to £10.5 million. The price dipped 4½p to 199p. The group now has 38 per cent of the cheddar cheese market, estimated to be worth £470 million a year. Margins are also improving.

CLIFF EDGED: The market staged a long-awaited rally with the help of a few cheaper buyers. Prices at the longer end rose by almost 6p as buyers piled in on the back of strong US Treasury bonds and some weaker than expected domestic production numbers.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt accelerated £½ to £109½ as the number of contracts completed grew to a healthy 105,000. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 climbed £½ to £101½. Among shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £13½ better at £103½.

CL NEW YORK: Shares were broadly higher at midday as investors cheered the likelihood that the presidential election would produce a politically divided US Federal Government. Wall Street had long accepted the likelihood of Bill Clinton's re-election, but worries that he would enter his second term with a Democratic Congress had weighed on markets, which feared a loosening of the Federal purse strings, resulting in deeper deficits and higher interest rates. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 49.19 points at 6,090.87.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6090.87 (+49.19)
S&P Composite 714.28 (+7.52)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20992.33 (+0.73)
DOE Index 4402.51 (+1.32)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12502.70 (+6.70)

Amsterdam:
AEX 356.03 (+4.71)

Sydney:
ASX 2361.6 (+4.1)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2891.29 (+19.43)

Singapore:
Straits 3070.23 (+5.58)

Brussels:
General 9942.32 (+25.05)

Paris:
CAC-40 2167.32 (+45.17)

Zurich:
SIX 736.30 (+10.53)

London:
FT 30 2781.0 (+1.91)
FT 100 3621.1 (+7.48)
FTSE 250 3621.1 (+7.48)
FTSE 350 1998.4 (+4.0)

FTSE Euronext 100 1758.99 (+11.40)
FT All-Share 1954.2 (+3.87)
FT Non-Financials 2022.54 (+4.89)
FT Financials 115.38 (+0.13)
FT Govt Secs 93.38 (+0.39)

Bargains
SEAG Volume 781.89
USM (Daxterm) 203.22 (+0.67)
USM 1.668 (+0.001)
German Mark 2.497 (+0.0004)
Exchange Index 91.4 (+0.29)
Bank of England official rate (4pm) 1.25%

ESOR 12.96
ESOR (15.8 Sep 2.1%) Jan 1997/100
RPIX 151.6 Sep 2.0% Jan 1997/100

RECENT ISSUES

Beechcroft	4	...
Charles Taylor	163½	+1
Corp Euro Leisure (3)	163½	+1
Deep Sea Leisure	162½	+1
Fitness First	90½	...
Geo Interactive (100)	80½	+6
Healthcare Reform	90½	...
Interoute Tele	162½	+1
Jardine Fret	123	...
John David Sports	301½	...
Lotus Road (72)	71½	...
London Under	130½	...
Mears Group	11½	...
Mondias (75)	90½	+1
Oriental Return	207½	+1
Thornie Hotels (170)	161	-3½
Urban Electronics	295½	+2
Victory Corp	52½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Brooke Inds n/p (125)	4½	-1
Cairn Energy n/p (360)	4½	-1
Capital Inds n/p (175)	7	-4½
Celsis Int n/p (100)	4½	-1½
Clyde Blurs n/p (265)	20	...
Euro Leds n/p (145)	12½	-3
Perkins Foods n/p (174)	4½	-1
Springwood n/p	84½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:	
Black & Veatch	311½ (+18p)
Br Airways	569½ (+18p)
Alcoa	702½ (+2½p)
Allied Domeq	481½ (+7p)
DPS Furniture	542½ (+9p)
Peel	408½ (+6p)
Parly	347½ (+11p)
FALLS:	
Adam & Harvey	58p (-7p)
Johnson Math	578p (-13p)
IMI	377p (-12p)
Pat City	495p (-12p)
Reuters	729p (-14p)
Steel Inds	850p (-10p)
Gearhouse Group	307p (-6p)
MMT Sports	580p (-13p)
JSB Sports	316p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

World's favourite contractor

OVER the next two years, British Airways will fly a couple of hundred accounting jobs from Britain to Bombay. Unfortunately, the jobs will not be flying with the jobs as suitably qualified Indians can do the work for a fifth of what bean counters cost in the UK. So it makes financial sense to export the jobs.

This is one small element of BA's plan to turn itself into what has been called a "virtual airline" — one of a flurry of initiatives that Bob Ayling has launched since taking over as chief executive. The virtual airline strategy — a label BA rejects — involves outsourcing the more mundane activities that are incidental to the main business.

This is the logical conclusion of the modern fashion for "focus". According to some of its critics, BA is in danger of turning itself into little more than a brand, a flight schedule and

a pretentious advertising campaign. Everything else involved in running an airline — owning planes, selling tickets, crewing aircraft — could be done by sub-contractors.

BA is still a very long way from this vision. But the idea represents a challenge to traditional notions of what makes a company. The drive for more focus is intended to go hand in hand with improving shareholder value. An airline is clearly not about cleaning offices or perhaps even matching ticket coupons. But an airline is more than a collection of contracts and a brand. A service business cannot afford to ignore staff morale which depends in part on a level of security not offered by contractors. The loss of staff loyalty could be as great a threat to management control and shareholder value as the present "inefficient" working patterns.

Whitbread

WHITBREAD has adopted a borrowed slogan — "The future is female" — to express its commitment to the 50 per cent of Britain largely ignored by brewers in the past. Of course, Whitbread can hardly be described as a brewer these days with less than 15 per cent of its assets tied up in the beer business.

However, this is not just a fuzzy fashion concept. It is about money: Whitbread has realised that women pay a lot of restaurant bills and tend to dislike standing at the bar in dingy pubs. Hence, the acquisition of the Café Rouge chain and the push to make more of its establishments friendly to female customers with children.

Curious, then, to read the annual report of Whitbread where a sea of male faces

stares at you from the page opposite the list of board directors. While the future may be female, within Whitbread the present is resolutely male.

Nevertheless, Whitbread is making spectacular progress in increasing sales and profits. Yet the stockmarket stubbornly resists awarding Whitbread

more than a market rating for earnings growth in the mid-teens. The residual doubt is its huge investment in buying brands at fancy prices, such as the £133 million purchase of Felcon Group. With so much good growth from internal investment, the wisdom of paying goodwill premiums for new brands is questionable.

BP

SADLY for BP, the share market is more preoccupied with the big world than with its internal successes. A record set of results boosted — to use BP's jargon — as much with self help as oil prices, failed to impress the market. Part of the problem is that investors are now used to good figures from BP and only extraordinary performance will excite buyers.

Over the summer, crude oil prices kept the oil stocks bubbling while in the past few weeks the rise of sterling has sent them falling back.

Oil companies' self-a dollar commodity in their upstream businesses while European chemicals markets are priced in marks. Either way there has been a 10 per cent shift in value in favour of sterling. Of course, BP does not lose a competitive edge; its input costs are also dollar-denominated and its refineries are fed crude priced in dollars. The problem is in translating

dollar earnings into a sterling dividend and the City reckons a 10 per cent currency swing is a 6 per cent loss to earnings.

There is a longer-term question of whether or not BP is near peak performance. Currently earning a 16 per cent return on capital employed, BP is running at a rate that would have given its managers vertigo in the past. With inflation at 3 per cent, it is not easy to find projects that achieve a real return of 15 per cent or more and there must be a concern that high oil prices and new technology will encourage a spurge of investment that brings down product prices. While BP may be confident it will not yield to the pressure, it cannot stop the rash investments of other companies.

An incentive, also, to buy Majestic Wine shares. The company grew its sales by 14 per cent in the period to September and is hoping to expand its 59-strong chain with 8 stores per year. Majestic sits in the middle of the market and hopes to grab customers who want more choice than is offered by supermarkets. It is also stealing business from fine wine merchants by offering warehouse-style prices.

WHILE the brewing industry does battle with flat sales, unfair excise duties and a poor public image, the

EDITED BY CARL MORTHEAD

COMMODITIES

LIFFE	
	Change
Cocoa	1017-1019
Mar	1017-1019
May	1017-1019
Jul	1017-1019
Sep	1017-1019
Nov	1017-1019

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$/lb)	
	Change
Nov	133-135
Jan	133-135
Mar	133-135
May	133-135
Jul	133-135
Sep	133-135
Nov	133-135

WHITE SUGAR (CIB)	
	Change
Nov	304-306
Jan	304-306
Mar	304-306
May	304-306
Jul	304-306
Sep	304-306
Nov	304-306

MEAT & LIVESTOCK	
	Change
Nov	100-102
Jan	100-102
Mar	100-102
May	100-102
Jul	100-102
Sep	100-102
Nov	100-102

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
	Change
Nov	100-102
Jan	100-102
Mar	100-102
May	100-102
Jul	100-102
Sep	100-102
Nov	100-102

LIFE OPTIONS	
	Change
Nov	100-102
Jan	100-102
Mar	100-102
May	100-102
Jul	100-102
Sep	100-102
Nov	100-102

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
FTSE 100	3940.0	3950.0	3930.0	3945.0	2123
FTSE 250	3621.1	3631.1	3611.1	3626.1	761

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Three Month Sterling	93.67	93.71	93.66	93.69	17614
Three Month Euro DM	93.34	93.47	93.37	93.34	2769

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Long Gilt	109.16	109.18	109.14	109.16	37133
Japanese Govt Bond	109.16	109.18	109.14	109.16	37133

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
German Govt Bond	98.59	98.63	98.56	98.62	14685
Three Month ECU	93.77	93.80	93.76	93.78	946

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Italian Govt Bond	123.10	123.12	123.08	123.10	421
Swiss Franc	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	14685

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Discount Market Loans (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Local Authority Debts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building Society CDs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Discount Market Loans (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Local Authority Debts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building Society CDs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Discount Market Loans (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Local Authority Debts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building Society CDs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Discount Market Loans (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Local Authority Debts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building Society CDs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Prime Bank Bills (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Discount Market Loans (3m)	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

DOLLAR RATES

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Australia	1.2711	1.2711	1.2711	1.2711	1.2711
Canada	0.6445	0.6445	0.6445	0.6445	0.6445

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
France	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145
Germany	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145	5.1145

	Open	High	Low	Settle	Vol
Hong Kong	7.7317	7.7317	7.7317	7.7317	7.7317
Ireland	1.6475	1.6475	1.6475	1.6475	1.6475

Argentina peso	1.6500-1.6527	Amst Genl Clasp	27 1/2	28 1/2	Genproc
Australia dollar	2.0957-2.0996	Amst Home Pl	62 1/2	63 1/2	Gen Dynam
Bahrein dollar	0.8165-0.8285	Amst Ind	100 1/2	100 1/2	Gen Electr
Brazil real	1.7032-1.7076	Amst Stores	8 1/2	8 1/2	Gen Ind
China yuan	n/a	Amst Standard	34 1/2	34 1/2	Gen Motors
		Amst Treasch	51 1/2	51 1/2	Gen Reliance
		Amroco	74	74	Gen Sig
		Amster-Busch	30 1/2	30 1/2	Genline Pl
		Apple Computer	25 1/2	26 1/2	Georgia Pa

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

No charge with Knight brigade

ANGELA KNIGHT, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and mother of two, was discussing housework during parliamentary questions yesterday.

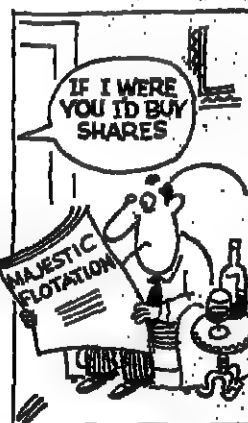
She outlined plans to develop a way of costing "unremunerated work" over and above housework. Digging the garden, putting up shelves and washing the car are just some of the household chores that the Office for National Statistics will take into account. ONS is currently designing a pilot survey that will take place next year.

In a stew

BZW has been forced to call in the food inspectors, after guests from its Halloween party turned a ghastly shade of green. Of the 400 guests who got stuck into the buffet with customary relish, a number called in sick the next day. A full-scale investigation is under way, but it has not yet been established whether the devilled eggs or the new stew was to blame.

Bottom line

SO, Whitbread is going all out to capture a thirsty female market, beiras and all. According to Peter Jarvis, chief executive, "The jobs that are being lost are being lost by men, and the jobs that are being won are being won by women." A watermark in Whitbread's evolution from the Dark Ages is the recent introduction of nappy-changing facilities in its Scottish pubs. After a successful run in Scotland, the nappy-friendly pubs are heading south.



Short-sighted

SQUINT and you might spot the changes made to Tetley Bitter's new logo. The relaunch package, rumoured to be worth about £16 million, has done no more than erase the monochrome from the red-coated huntsman, the familiar face of Tetley for decades. If this is a desperate bid to appeal to younger drinkers, the Yorkshire brewery ought to be crying in its beer.

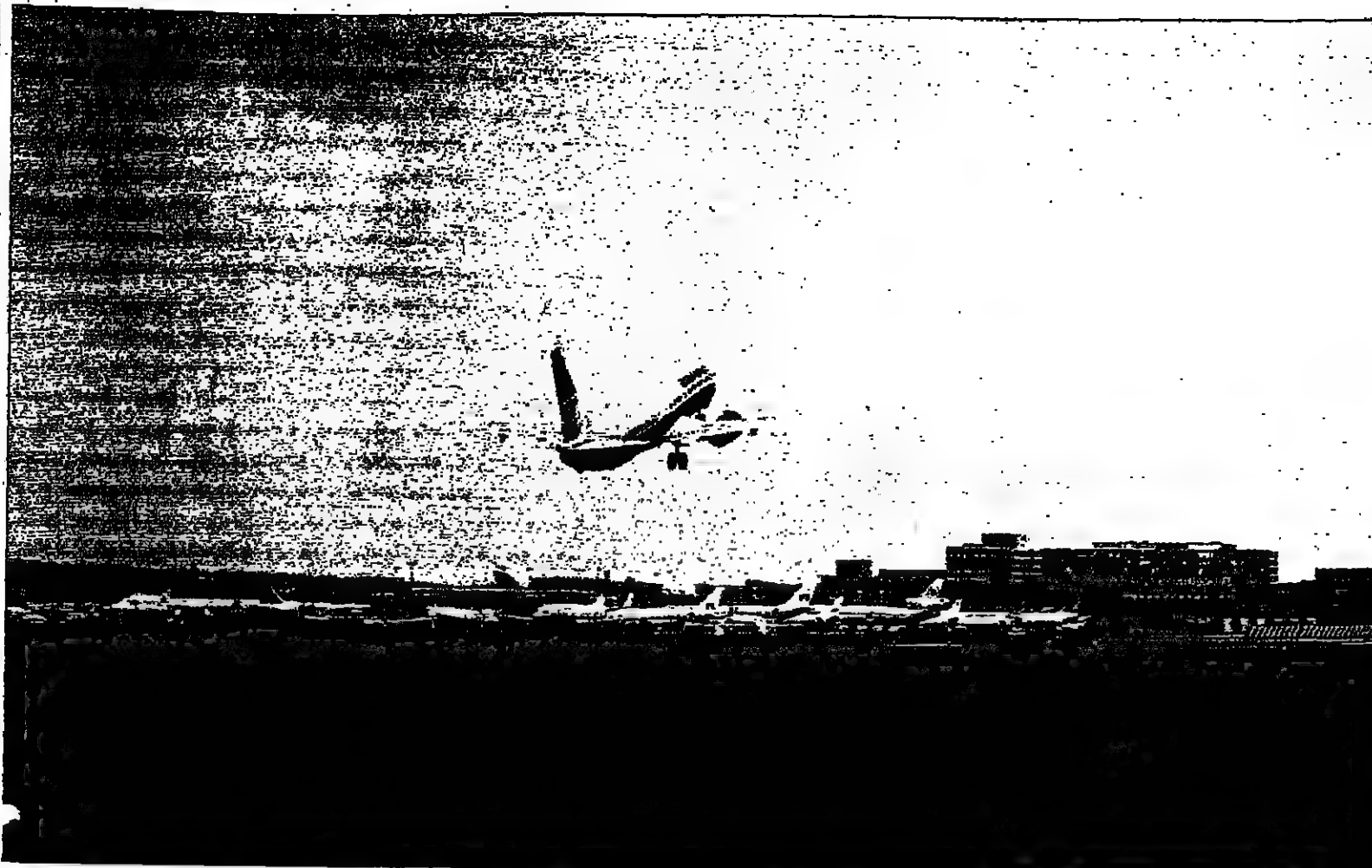
In character

SIX stretch limos and an army of bodyguards accompanied Li Lanning, the Chinese vice-premier, to the Stock Exchange yesterday, to discuss the opportunities for Chinese companies to list in London. But it was Gordon Barrass, international adviser at Coopers & Lybrand, who stole the show, delivering a ten-minute speech in Mandarin.

Pound of flesh

PENSIONER Patrick Mountain, whose phone hasn't stopped ringing since he launched his campaign against the Alliance & Leicester, is withdrawing his fortune from the society. In protest over A&L's decision to opt for a flat-rate shares allocation, Mountain tells me that he is transferring £146,999 to either the Bradford & Bingley or the Britannia, leaving a lonely £1. He says that he will sell all but one of his shares, forcing Alliance & Leicester to "serve that single share forever more".

MORAG PRESTON



Forecasters say that the BA we know is heading off into the sunset, leaving behind little more than front line crew and a brand name

How BA has depressed its staff with Flying Colours

Jon Ashworth on the flagship carrier's flight towards virtual reality

As flag bearers go, British Airways is starting to look a little lame. What should have been a triumphant link-up with American Airlines has turned, instead, into an agonising waiting game. A crippling strike by pilots was seen off only by the narrowest of margins. Robert Ayling, BA's youthful chief executive, is trying to push through a deeply unpopular series of reforms. The company yesterday announced record pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, but figures at the operating level fell, largely as a result of the threatened pilots' strike.

Perhaps most worrisome of all — and the aspect that Mr Ayling's textbooks seem least able to deal with — is the toll all this is taking of BA's culture. BA's pilots, as professional as breed as one will find, were ready to turn up at the annual meeting to voice their displeasure — once an unthinkable prospect. Cabin crew based at regional sites such as Manchester have been told that they face a pay cut or they may lose their jobs. Baggage handlers, ticketing staff, and others, face the prospect of seeing their jobs perched out to private operators as far away as Bombay.

The level of discontent in the airline is reflected in two documents sent to *The Times* by BA staff. The first is a discussion document outlining drastic proposals aimed at streamlining regional services. The second voices the suspicion, held by many at BA, that more and more "non-core" routes, such as those to the Caribbean, and other holiday destinations, are to be packaged out to private operators, dressed in BA colours. The implications are profound. Strife at BA's regional operations has already been well-aided. Employees are being canvassed on ways of raising funds for new aircraft, needed to replace ageing 737-200s to meet European Union noise-limitation rules. Management is seeking savings of £27 million for 1999-2000 from flight crew, engineering, sales and marketing, and other departments. Cabin Services is being pressed for additional savings of between £3.5 million and £5 million by the year 2000.

Cabin Services has dominated the headlines. BA's premise is that cabin crew flying out of regional bases such as Manchester and Birmingham are

being paid far more than colleagues flying to European destinations out of Gatwick, even though routes and aircraft are similar. A typical proposal is that crew members with 11 years' service would see their basic pay cut from £12,191 to £7,920. The deal would be sweetened with a one-off lump sum — say, £10,000 for senior crew who agree to take a cut in salary.

The aim is to enter discussions with unions with a view to implementing changes next year. BA says that the alternative is to buy services in from outside, or close, sell, or franchise out its regional operations. It adds: "We have been paying far in excess of current market rates for cabin crew. If we achieve market price, we should be able to replace our aircraft and [BA Regional's] earnings and market position will improve dramatically."

Asking someone to take a 35 per cent cut in salary simply because they are earning more than the market rate is unlikely to go down well in any organisation. Anger over levels of pay at Gatwick was at the heart of the threatened pilots' strike, so BA may be treading on dangerous ground in taking Gatwick as a benchmark. BA

says that European Operations Gatwick (EOG) is incurring substantial losses. Insiders counter that BA's "Cobra" yield control system is directing all low-yield traffic to (EOG) in preference to parallel routes out of Heathrow. The fate of BA's non-core routes is another matter altogether. The consensus is that BA may look to franchise its less profitable routes out to smaller airlines, which will use BA colours, and pay the airline a fee.

BA has signed at least ten such deals so far, bringing in more than £50 million in additional passenger "feed" and franchising payments in 1995. British Mediterranean Airways, whose directors include David Burnside, former head of public affairs at BA, has taken on routes between London and Beirut, Amman and Damascus. Sun Air, cut in Denmark, and Comair, a South African regional carrier, are among the latest recruits.

These are small-scale deals. What intrigues BA insiders is the advent of an embryo airline called Flying Colours, formed a year ago with backing from NatWest Ventures. The airline is

part of Flying Colours Leisure Group, the holding company for tour operators such as Club 19-30 and Sunset Holidays. Flying Colours has leased four new Boeing 757s and is due to take off operations next spring, flying package holidaymakers to destinations in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. The airline's chairman is Errol Cossey, founder of Air Europe and Air 2000. The suspicion is that Flying Colours will grow to take on much of the Caribbean run from BA — something BA admits is a possibility. Talks have commenced over the prospect of Flying Colours moving to a BA franchise agreement from November 1997, although nothing has been signed. The airline would potentially take on routes linking Gatwick with Tampa, Barbados, Antigua, St Lucia, Grand Cayman, Bermuda, Nassau, and San Juan. The granting of such routes to an embryo player would be very different to the current relatively minor franchising out of fringe routes to established carriers.

BA long-servers gloomily predict the advent of a "virtual airline", in which BA is left with little more than front line crew and a brand name. Almost all other things could be leased or brought in. Franchising out a chunk of BA's long-haul routes, according to BA insiders, translates as: "Same jobs, same people, less money."

Moves to cut BA's workforce by 5,000 under Mr Ayling's "Step Change" programme have already begun, with the closure of the contract-handling unit at Heathrow, with the loss of 750 jobs. BA says it is looking to double revenues from franchising over the next three years — part of the grand design aimed at stripping £1 billion in costs out of the business.

And so one returns to the stand-off between BA's management and its 55,000-strong workforce. Mr Ayling is doing what he perceives to be the "right thing" in licking BA into shape before economic pressures force change upon him. Few textbook strategists would dispute the logic. But the manner in which he is going about his task threatens lasting damage. The danger is that BA will grow to resemble a futuristic but flawed jet-liner, aerodynamically ahead of its time but with a fault running deep through its main-frame structures. Push the envelope too far, and something will snap.



The proposed link between BA and AA is temporarily grounded

BUSINESS LETTERS

Dud issues in a democracy

From Mr Christopher Daws
Sir, Now that tax-motivated share buyback schemes are passé, tax planners will be casting around for the next lucrative device. Soon, perhaps, companies will issue double dividend shares ("Duds"). These shares entitle the holder to a dividend at double the normal rate but require the reinvestment of half the net dividend in non-redeemable zero income shares ("Nozies"). Duds would enable exempt shareholders to dig their shovels deeply into the rich mine of repayable tax credits: Trids and Quads would be even better.

Ever more ingenious tax planners will continue to find ways around the letter of the law while driving a coach and horses through its spirit. But the question which the country should be asking is the point at which tax planning ceases to become an esoteric intellectual game for the ingenious and becomes, instead, a method of transferring wealth from the poor to the rich, which is unacceptable in a democracy. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER DAWS, Sheepscote House, Jacks Green, Sheepscote, Stroud.

Flying in the face of frequent airport users' needs

From Professor J I Sprent
Sir, The question asked of passengers at airports is what kind of shopping facilities they want. "None" is not an allowable answer. I go (frequently) to airports with the sole objective of catching a flight with the minimum hassle and delay. I do not want to shop. I dispute the basis on which calculations

are made on the need for shops to maintain airport infrastructure. Try giving passengers a shorter walk to the pier, overhead lockers that are not stuffed with shopping purchased after the "one piece of hand luggage" rule has been applied, lower costs because the average weight of passen-

ger and luggage (why do we not use this as a fare basis?) is less — and some of us, particularly I suspect the more frequent flyers, would be much happier. Yours faithfully, JANET SPRENT, 32 Birkhill Avenue, Wornit, Newport-on-Tay, Fife.

Little sympathy for British Gas

From Mr David Leslie
Sir, Mr Taylor ("Help must be given to British Gas", October 15) apparently lives in a world not populated by ordinary mortals. Apart from doctors and British Gas, members of the police, fire and ambulance services will come out on Christmas Day, as will members of the armed forces, workers from other utilities and many who work in local authorities, including myself. Last Christmas, in Scotland, it got extremely cold, and at this time most, if not all, plumbers also worked Christmas Day.

The reason that British Gas has gone down in the public estimation is simple: it decided that, when competition was introduced and its prices were cut by the regulator, that paying its chairman and chief executive vastly inflated increases, together with unearned share options, was of greater importance than customer care.

Yours faithfully, DAVID LESLIE, 25 Croftnappoch Place, Crieff, Perthshire.

Industry backs 'Buy one, get one free'

From the Editor, Incentive Today
Sir, The research from the London Business School, commissioned by Procter & Gamble, referred to in the headline as "Buy one, get one free" bad for trade" (October 23) is strangely at odds with current

industry findings on consumer attitudes to promotions. On the contrary, consumers appear to enjoy and be entertained by the majority of promotions, which is borne out by research and response levels. This trend has encouraged brand owners to link an increasing number of promotions to TV commercials, as well as to TV programmes via sponsorship initiatives such as

Cadbury's current interactive promotional sponsorship of *Coronation Street*, at a cost of £10 million. "Buy one, get one free" is a marketing concept which goes back to the baker's dozen and beyond and current trends in marketing show that special offers remain as popular as ever.

Your report says that the research suggests promotions "actually increase prices in the long term". The truth is that major brand promoters would not waste their money if this were so, which is why the great majority of promotions are designed to be self-liquidating. Yours faithfully, CHARLES FORD, Editor, Incentive Today, Blenheim Group, 630 Chiswick High Road, W4.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Short odds on what is still an open race

According to the wire service headlines: "Markets back Clinton — and a Republican Congress"; an example, surely, of itchy trigger fingers. Nothing else can explain the sudden surge in just about everything — equities, bonds and the dollar — in what remains an uncertain congressional race, depending on apathy, and before the polls were much more than opening on the West coast. The final answer will still be unclear when you read this, let alone when I write it; and even when we know the numbers, we will still have to guess what they mean. The answers are not as clear as the Wall Street action seems to suggest.

Suppose, for a start, that the market headlines are a good election forecast (and there is no reason, I repeat, to suppose any such thing). So, party deadlock: a minimum of active government — and you can't have too little of a bad thing. But it is not as simple as that. "We have an interest in the outcome — but no principle, of course" said a grinning Wall Street friend yesterday; and he was making not just a crack, but a point. There is little sign that Bill Clinton has any party political agenda for the Republicans in block. He has a Southern Pol's approach to politics — the art not of policy, but of horse-trading. It is about market-opening, selling Boeings on the presidential hot-line, trying (less effectively) to persuade the EC to be less of a drag.

And it is about people. The people who matter are partly the top officials Clinton appoints: existing office-holders are safe, but any replacements have to be clear the Senate's powers to advise and consent. Wall Street could be celebrating reports that Clinton has persuaded Robert Rubin, the present Treasury Secretary, to stay on. He is one of Wall Street's own, and seems to have fewer critics than Alan Greenspan, his Fed counterpart. But even if he went, Clinton would surely want a safe pair of hands at the Treasury, Senate or no Senate. He will also still want a combative Trade Secretary, even if Mickey Kantor decides to return to private law

practice and make some serious money. In short, the vote will not much effect the kind of officials who interest Wall Street.

More interesting are the appointments which no President can control — the chairmanship of the congressional committees who initiate legislation, and are in charge of budget haggling. These go to the majority party, and by seniority (goodness, as Mae West said, has nothing to do with it). If the Democrats control the House — much likelier than a Senate upset — then seniority will hand key chairs to some real museum pieces, by which I mean unreconstructed US-style liberals — the tax-and-spend variety. Imagine Tony Blair having to work with ministers selected by Michael Foot, and you will get some feel of the thing. Now remember that the sphinx-like Clinton was once regarded as a liberal himself, and is married to one, and you have found something that might spook investors. But nothing to celebrate.

The dollar, then? Its further rise could be justified by the rumours about Rubin — reported to be a strong-dollar man (which is by no means the normal rule at the US Treasury). But although a US Administration has much more decision-power over exchange rate matters than some governments (the Treasury, not the Fed, controls market operations), policy is not fully independent. The rise of the dollar in the last nine months is mainly a by-product of an operation planned to rescue the bankrupt Japanese financial system, and probably cannot be changed as long as Japan's banks remain so shaky. And why celebrate, in any case? A strong dollar, like a strong pound here, is bad for competitiveness and fur profits.

So the Wall Street fireworks still look hazardous. If the political forecast comes right, then the rise has been overdue; wait for the correction. Only if it is wrong, and the markets wake up with a nasty hang-over, should foreigners think of acting: that could provide a buying opportunity.

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Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Intellectual Property	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Natural Resources	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Infrastructure	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Transportation	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Energy & Utilities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Healthcare	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Technology	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Media & Entertainment	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Real Estate	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Commodities	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Art & Collectibles	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Cryptocurrency	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84
Global Digital Assets	221.50	224.00	-1.14	0.84	Global Digital Assets</									

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

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MUSEUMS

Admission charges for the British Museum? That may be the only option, says its director



RISING STAR

Cultural crossover is reflected in the photographs of the Kobal Portrait winner, Jananne Al-Ani

THE TIMES ARTS



CONCERT

Back at the Barbican: the Korean conductor Myung-Whun Chung impresses with the LSO



FILM

How Lloyd George massaged his image: a 1918 film biography is screened in London

The high cost of staying free

Isabel Carlisle finds out why the British Museum may have to think the unthinkable, and charge for entry

The British Museum is in such deep financial crisis that its director, Dr Robert Anderson, who arrived at the museum almost five years ago vowing to maintain free admissions, is now talking of a £5 entry charge from early next year, staff cuts of up to 20 per cent, and room closures.

The crisis is the result of a combination of factors culminating in expected further cuts in grants to museums after the Budget later this month. All museums have seen their government subsidy reduced. The British Museum's was slashed by £1 million last year, and the Department of National Heritage has given warning that for the financial year 1997-98 the grant is likely to be cut again from £33.2 million to £32.1 million.

The British Museum's problems are compounded by the imminent departure of the British Library, which currently pays an annual £3.5 million in rent, plus running costs, for the parts of the building which it occupies. At the moment there is no indication that the Government will make up the shortfall, or contribute anything towards the £200-250 million which the museum says it will cost to refurbish the vacated spaces, including the Great Court project. In all, the British Museum is facing an overall fall in income of 24 per cent by the end of the century, and a cumulative deficit of £25 million by 2000. The museum currently has no deficit.

"The library has been an issue for years," says Anderson. "Before I arrived the trustees had been deeply concerned. Then in the last November Budget, we heard of the grant-in-aid cuts and a working party was set up in the British Museum to look at all aspects of spending. Once an internal report had been done, we commissioned one from Andrew Edwards, a former Deputy Secretary at the Treasury. There is a board meeting in the first half of December to take decisions based on the external review."

As an entry fee, Anderson says: "I desperately want to avoid charging, but ultimately we have to accept that it is a possibility. Staff cuts are almost inevitable, but I hope in as painless a way as possible, assuming the Government holds the grant steady after 1998. Most of our government income goes on staff (£26.6 million this year). With 1,060 employees at present, the museum is not overstaffed, Anderson says. "Not if you consider our visitor numbers — which were 6.2 million last year, more than either the Louvre or the Metropolitan Museum in New York — and what we do."

6 People donate money for things they can see

"We are also exploring ways to generate more income. For instance, we have just opened a branch of the museum shop at Heathrow's Terminal 4 which should increase the £1 million generated by our commercial activities each year. Our development trust is raising large sums for capital projects — people only donate money for things that can be seen, not for salaries or overheads," says Anderson. "The main capital project at the moment is the redevelopment of the Great Court, which contains the Round Reading Room. The architect is Sir Norman Foster, and completion is scheduled for the year 2000. Might not the British public be unhappy at the prospect of paying entry charges while £60 million is being spent on the Great Court? Anderson disagrees.

"First, the Great Court scheme is separate from this particular crisis; it is financed by the lottery and the private sector. Secondly, it will provide facilities that we lack at the moment and generate income from its new shops and restaurants. In fact it will be self-financing in terms of running costs, by bringing the Museum of Mankind back on to the Bloomsbury site."

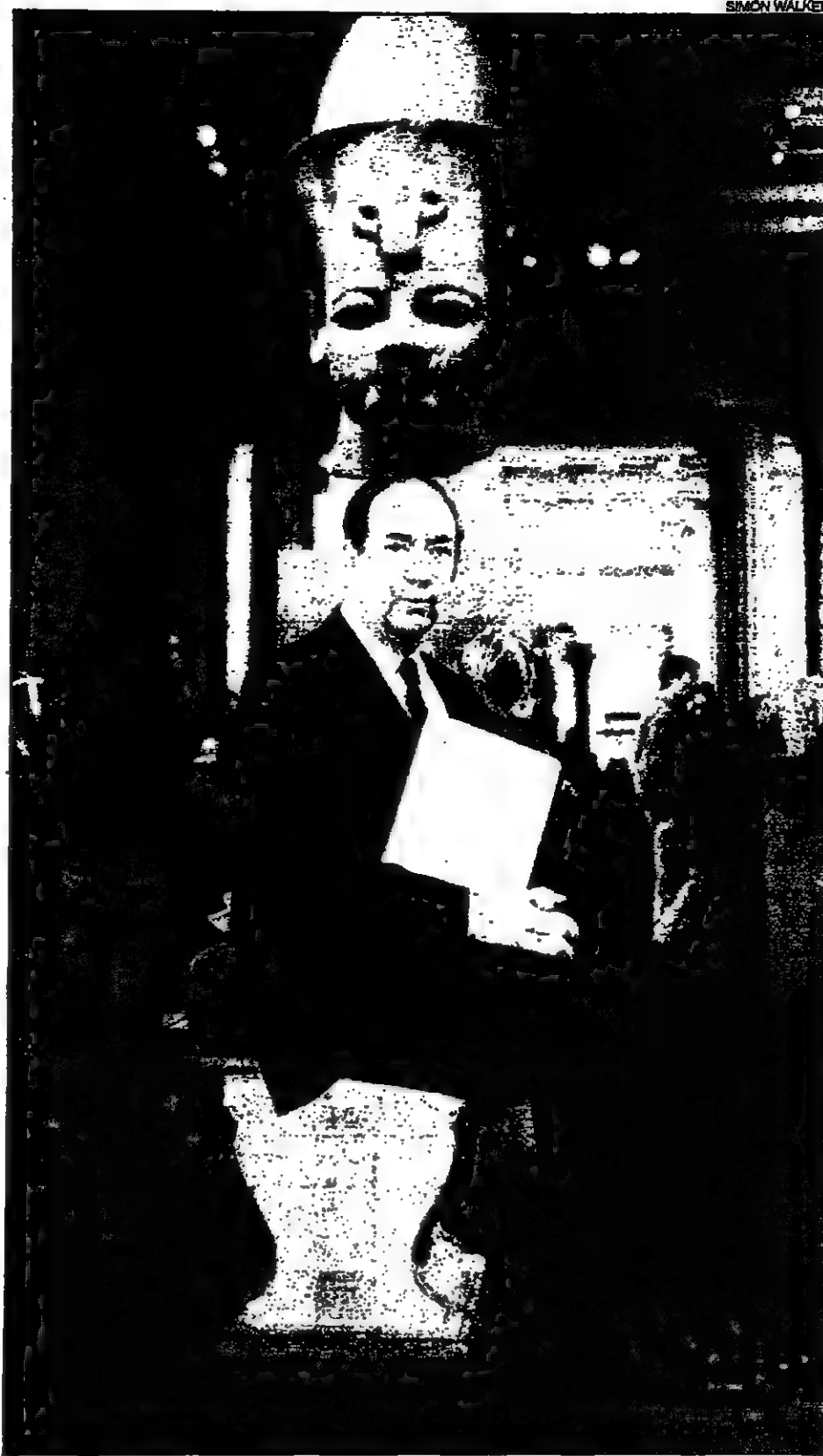
"At the moment, at peak times, the museum gets very crowded. The Great Court will ease that, and also provide an information centre with computer terminals which will allow people to chart their own way around the museum."

What does Anderson think of a Government that on the one hand deals out money from the lottery for building capital projects, and on the other cuts the grant for running costs? "There is definitely a problem, because the lottery provides not a penny for running costs. But I prefer running costs to come straight from the Government as I don't see the lottery as a dependable source of regular income."

Are the current problems the inevitable consequence of an old-fashioned, large, rather inward-looking institution crunched up against the financial realities of the 1990s? Anderson rejects the term inward-looking. "We really do consider our public, from students of cuneiform tablets to tourists who only have time for a brief visit. The museum is the great storehouse of the world's material culture, and it is that material that we are working with."

"People could confuse scholarship with being inward-looking, but we are publishing the results of research on our collections for everyone to read. We also send exhibitions out to the rest of the world: there is a huge exhibition of Assyrian Treasures opening in Tokyo next month."

So how could the British Museum sustain a drop in visitor numbers by an estimated 60 per cent if charging were introduced? "We couldn't. At the moment we are hoping circumstances will be such that we can avoid charging. I



"We are exploring ways to generate more income," says Robert Anderson, the BM's director

feel strongly that our role lies in education, not entertainment. We are also a very cost-effective museum at the moment. With only £5 to £5.50 of government subsidy per visitor, we are the second cheapest after the National Gallery. If turnstiles came in we would also lose revenue from our shops and cafe.

"It would also make a real

difference to patronage. One of the great attractions for people who give us money for new galleries or displays is the large number of people who come, as well as the devotion and expertise of our staff. Some of our patrons are fiercely opposed to charging.

"And our relationship with the public would inevitably change. At the moment we are

a museum of discovery: people drop in, in their lunchtimes for instance, and find out about things they haven't looked at before while en route for something else. When you charge, you get a much narrower audience that already knows what it wants to look at.

"These collections belong to the people; they should be as accessible as possible."

Tour de force

CONCERT

LSO/Chung
Barbican

FOLLOWING his five-year spell as music director of the Paris Opera, Myung-Whun Chung is re-establishing himself on the concert platform. Conducting from memory on Sunday night, he gave two immensely assured performances with the London Symphony Orchestra shortly before leading them on a tour to the Far East.

From the introductory bars of Dvořák's Symphony No 8 in G Major one was conscious of the richness and amplitude in the orchestra's playing elicited by Chung. The strings had a vibrancy and fullness, complemented by the warmth of the woodwind, and Chung exploited both in his lyrical unfolding of the opening broad paragraphs. A new spirit entered the music with the breathless anticipation of the curtain-raising figure that follows. If this was daring in its operatic whipping-up of excitement, that was nothing to the drastic slowing-down for a fervently expressed idea shortly after. The Adagio achieved a similarly powerful effect with its dramatic outbursts. A buoyant Allegretto grazioso and a taut finale

brought the symphony to an exhilarating close.

Over the larger scale of Mahler's First Symphony, Chung refused to rush his fancies. Patiently he assembled the opening movement from bare harmonies to rustic merry-making. The whooping horns of the Ländler second movement continued the outdoor theme, and the grotesqueries of the funeral march third were nicely pointed up with some crisp phrasing.

The apocalyptic opening of the finale gave notice that something special was to follow, and once again Chung succeeded in carving out an admirable sound structure which he then proceeded to fill with surging detail. The LSO played magnificently for him; indeed, on this evidence, they embark on their tour in world-beating form.

BARRY MILLINGTON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JANANNE AL-ANI

Age: 29.
Profession: Photographer/artist.

Recent successes: Al-Ani, who is studying for an MA in photography at the RCA, has just won the John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award (entries can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery until January 19) with a picture of herself, three sisters and her mother veiled.

Background: Al-Ani was born in northern Iraq to an Arab father and an Irish mother. "My work has always been informed by my experience of being a mixed race woman, of growing up in the Middle East and moving to Britain at 13," she says.

Other successes: She has had a piece on the Gulf War shown at the Imperial War Museum, an installation at the Chelsea Physic Garden, and exhibits at the Barbican, the Royal Scottish Academy and the Whitechapel Open.

Is she purely a photographer? "Not really — I see myself as an artist who also uses photography and video. My early work explored sexual and gender politics and the images of fetishised oriental women in Western art."

What next? "I have to complete my MA first. Then I'd like to do a one-person show."

GUY WALTERS



THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON

Almeida Theatre
Nov 12-14
● SEE Fiona Bell as Rosaline and Tom Marnion as Cyrano in Communicado Theatre Company's production of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, translated by Edwin Morgan. Tickets £12.50 (normally £16.50). Tel 0171-359 4404

Fortie Hotel
Regents Park
Murder Mystery
Dinner Theatre
Dec 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17
● COME to a three-course dinner — and stay for a murder. Will you solve the mystery, or are you the suspect? The all-inclusive price is £39 (normally £49). Tel 0171-359 1777

EDINBURGH
Festival Theatre
Nov 6-7
● SAVE £3 on stall and dress circle seats (normally £8.50 to £17.50) for Decodes. Tel 0131-529 6000

HARROGATE
Harrogate Theatre
Nov 15-Dec 6
● SAVE 15 per cent on tickets (normally £5.70 to £12.40) for John Godber's classroom comedy, *Teachers*. Tel 01423 502116

CHESTER
Gateway Theatre
Until Nov 21
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 to £10.50) for any Tues to Thurs perfor-

● TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8UL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

manoe of the comedy, *Newell's Island*. Tel 01244 340992

NORTHAMPTON
Royal Theatre
Until Nov 30
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £8.50 to £12.50) for any Mon to Thurs performance of *Northanger Abbey*. Tel 01604 32533

WATFORD
Palace Theatre
Nov 18-21
● TICKETS £8 (normally £11.25 to £13.25) for the improvised courtroom comedy, *Court in the Act*. Tel 01923 225671

HORSHAM
Horsham Centre
Nov 27-28
● TICKETS £5 (normally £7.50) for *Hamlet*. Tel 01403 268699

BARNSTAPLE
Barnstaple Theatre
Nov 26 & 28
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £10.50) for *Hamlet*. Tel 01271 24242

CINEMA: Ruth Winstone on the 1918 film biography of David Lloyd George

Liberal with the soft soap

On February 24, 1920, Frances Stevenson, Lloyd George's mistress, wrote in her diary: "Last night went to see a film of D's life — an appalling thing. The man who was supposed to be D was simply a caricature. Mrs LIG very angry because she said I had put D against it because I objected to the domestic scenes in it."

The monogamous, Christian, heart-loving politician was one of the many carefully fostered images which found their way into *The Life Story of David Lloyd George*, produced in 1918, and given its first London showing at the National Film Theatre at the weekend. The cottage-bred boy brought up by his devout uncle, the young David smiling Goliath in the guise, first of the Anglican Church in Wales, later of the Kaiser; the old people released from the workhouse by the Lloyd George pension — they are all here in this extraordinary silent film made by Simon Rowson and producer Maurice Elvey, but never released.

The "drama-documentary" was mysteriously removed by government representatives from the offices of the production company, Ideal, in January 1919 in return for £20,000



Lloyd George is portrayed as the ideal husband and father

in cash. No record of the film exists in histories of British movies. The discovery by one of Lloyd George's grandsons, nearly 80 years later, of 137 rolls of nitrate film, meticulously reassembled by John Reed at the Wales Film and Television Archive, has resulted in two and a half hours of riveting cinema for film buffs and political historians alike.

As Lloyd George's personal secretary, confidante and lover throughout the war, Stevenson's personal sentiments are understandable, her verdict on the film was misjudged. The range of techniques used to produce a strong emotional impact without a word being spoken by one of the greatest

speakers of the 20th century is astonishing. The film moves between melodramatic vignettes of starving children, imaginary sequences in which earlier political giants fade in and out of the screen, and powerful reconstructions of the war front.

Norman Page played Lloyd George, having studied him from the gallery of the House of Commons. One of the last sequences uses early archive footage of the real Lloyd George sitting next to his wife in their carriage surrounded by ecstatic crowds. By that stage Lloyd George and Norman Page have become almost indistinguishable.

Once the correct sequence of the 137 rolls had been established and the film tinted according to the instructions of the original makers, no further editing was required — the film was, surprisingly, virtually complete. This has led to speculation about the cut material — never found — and to the mischievous suggestion that the government solicitors who took away the film in 1919 were in fact given the cuts, and not the edited film. In this case the showing in 1920 seen by Stevenson and Lloyd George might have been the wrong bits. The mystery remains.

EN
Without question, the contemporary dramatic event of the season, indeed the year...
Bernd Albrecht Zimmermann
Die Soldaten (Soldiers)
Seven performances only
November 19/20/21/26/28
December 5/12 at 8.00pm
December 10 at 6.30pm
Tickets from £6.50
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CHOICE 1

Humbly man:
Anthony Newley
sings the title
role in *Scrooge*

VENUE: Now in preview
at the Dominion

CHOICE 2

Diana Rigg brings
Who's Afraid of
Virginia Woolf?
to the West End

VENUE: Opens tonight
at the Aldwych

THE TIMES
ARTS

OPERA

Political crimes
and punishment:
Denmark sees
a new work that
has been ripped
from the headlines

MUSIC

Fiddling in
vain: the world's
oldest violin
competition
withholds its
first prize

Double
exposure

OPERA: Barry Millington on an inventive
Danish work that moves seamlessly
between the personal and the political

ONE of the most permanent monuments of Copenhagen's Cultural Capital year will be the thrilling Museum of Modern Art at Ishøj, just outside the capital. Inside this majestic, ship-like structure, designed throughout on a nautical metaphor, is an auditorium for chamber music and opera.

But *Dommen* ("The Judgment") by Niels Rosing-Schow, a leading Danish composer of the middle generation, starts not in the auditorium, but outside in the foyer. The opera (libretto by the composer's wife, Christina Canals-Frau) begins with the photographer Helene exhibiting her pictures of war in the Middle Eastern country of Esperia.

Thus we find ourselves, in front of these very displays, drawn into as we stand around, and it is a good 20 minutes before we are invited into the auditorium for the main action. Helene gets involved with a group of Esperian freedom fighters who object to her exploitative pictures. She falls in love with one of them (Adil), and in the final judgment scene, is put on trial on a false charge of murdering the state prosecutor.

Steffen Aarling's sets, a cleverly interlocking series of moveable structures that can quickly create new space, also incorporate multiscreen video images of demonstrations and the like. But the screens are also often used to project emotional states, with close-up facial expressions.

In fact, what impresses most about *Dommen* is the skill with which the public and private spheres, the political and the personal, are juxtaposed in a way that is never gratuitous or merely attention-seeking. That continuity is enhanced by Rosing-Schow's score, for eight players. Although necessarily limited in tonal variety, its hyperactive string agitation, with pungent wind or brass comments plus a resourceful array of percussion, serves as the basic core adaptable to both internal emotional turmoil and external events.

Dina Mai-Mai and Steen Byriel are strongly cast as Helene and Adil. The excellent Danish Chamber Players are conducted by Søren K. Hansen and the inventive production is by the highly promising Kasper Holten, making his debut with the Royal Opera company at the age of 23.



Strange attraction: Steen Byriel as Adil and Dina Mai-Mai as Helene

MUSIC: John Allison reports an inconclusive result to the world's oldest violin competition
And the winner is ... well, nobody, actually

NO one familiar with the Polish arts scene was really surprised when the 11th International Henryk Wieniawski Violin Competition ended with the jury deciding not to award a first prize. Both last year's Chopin Piano Competition and the recent Polish Film Festival produced similar verdicts. And although many of the 39 violinists who descended on the city of Poznan, in western Poland, displayed exciting talent, none seemed quite ready for a major international career. Even the winner of the second prize, the remarkable Reiko Otani, told the Polish press that she "understood the message: I have a lot of work to do."

This was a good but not vintage year for the oldest violin contest in the world. After all, in the inaugural competition in 1935, David Oistrakh was beaten into second place by another legendary player, Ginette Neveu. This year's jury of 13 (chaired by Karol Stryja) included some past prizewinners, among them the American Charles Tregar. "By not awarding the top prize for the first time ever," Tregar said, "we were saying that although we were happy with the talent, people are entering before they should be making careers, and that is what the first prize should recognise."

Founded to mark the centenary of Wieniawski's birth and modelled on the Chopin Competition, the violin contest was first held in Warsaw. But massive wartime destruction of the city meant that, when the competition reopened in 1952, a lack of facilities forced the move to Poznan, a well-organised cultural centre. The competition is held every five years in the 900-seat University Concert Hall, a jewel of an

auditorium blessed with splendid acoustics. Throughout the second half of October local audiences attended the four rounds, while radio and television relayed performance.

People are entering the contest before they should.

manes to the nation. A rehearsal conducted by Yehudi Menuhin, honorary president of the jury, was packed out by music students, and Menuhin was clearly moved: "It's wonderful that this is a public event, not only for Poznan, but with the whole country participating. I always have the feeling that in London every cultural event is a barely tolerated sideshow."

This competition is as prestigious as almost all of its rivals and, thanks to generous but discreet sponsorship, as valuable as any. But the Wieniawski remains its Polish identity by including works of the national composers in each round. Szymanowski and Lutoski featured prominently, as of course, did Wieniawski; contestants were obliged to play one of his two violin concertos. Unlike the music of some other 19th-century composer-virtuosos, they stand up well to repeated exposure, which they received in the final round.

Competitors also had to play a concerto by another composer, a tough requirement: there was an enormous amount of music to memorise. But memory does not always

equal musicianship, and the jury's rulings in the early rounds aroused some controversy (and national feelings) when contestants from five other countries were knocked out to make the final a battle between Poland and Japan. Three violinists from each playing with the Poznan Philharmonic under its conductor, Grzegorz Nowak. The final result, though, was fair: Otani's polished and mature performance of Saint-Saens's Third Concerto was the most impressive I heard.

Japan also carried off the third prize (Akiko Tanaka) and shared the fourth (Asuka Szekai) with the host country (Lukasz Blaszczyk). Anna Resznak came fifth and, although she was placed last, Maria Nowak proved herself one of the most musically performers in her performance of Wieniawski's fiercely difficult First Concerto.

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LONDON

THE ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY The 125th anniversary season of this renowned London choir is launched with *Le Comte d'Artois*, an evening of English and French classics in celebration of the Society's Anglo-French origins. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Canadian baritone Gerald Finley, and Jeremy Edwards, head chorister of St Paul's Cathedral, join the conductor Richard Coote for the melismatic performance. The programme includes Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and Reger's *Dieu der Heiden*. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 020 7547 1234. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 020 7547 1234.

SCROOGE Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title role in the Les Boucasse musical. With Tom Watt as Bob Cratchit. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 011 626 2200. Preview from tonight. 30pm. Opens November 12. 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? Laura Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's powerful Alameda production of a searing play. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2E 9JF. 0171-416 6003. Opens tonight, 7.15pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 2.15pm.

IV JEWEL Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Woodhouse house, first staged 30 years ago, now entirely redrafted. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-434 5045. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER Well-known thriller, written when phone numbers still included letters — and as such is a self-referential. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-494 5070. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm; Sat, 3pm.

HAMLET Michael Maloney plays the Prince in a production by Philip Frank, a director who has done great things here. Greenwich, Coombe Hill, SE10 018 858 7755. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Until November 30.

HARRY DAVIS Rosslyn Limon leads the musical *Harry Davis* in a production by Rosslyn Limon. Theatres: Here for two weeks. Alameda, Alameda Road, W1 0171-259 4041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 3pm. Until November 9.

LAUGHTER ON THE THIRD FLOOR Neil Simon's funny account of working around a team of songwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gilt, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-494 5045. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

THE FAN (18). Psycho-babble in a Robert De Niro style. See *idol*. Westley Shopp. Westmore and empty. See *idol*. Director: Tony Scott. Odeon: Kensington (01426 914688). Leicester Square (01426 915 623). Shaftesbury (01426 914688). UCL Whitley (0171-434 0031). Warner West End (0171-437 4343).

THE GLIMMER MAN (18). Ponderous and silly thriller with Steven Seagal as a detective pursuing a serial killer. With Warner Bros. Director: John Gray. UCL Whitley (0171-434 0031). Warner West End (0171-437 4343).

THE LAST SUPPER Moving Canadian account of an AIDS victim's last hours, based on a true story. With Alan Rickman. ICA Cinema (0171-500 3847).

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian Macey

ELSEWHERE

CONVENTRY The National Theatre Dance Company presents an evening of innovative dance. The programme includes *Ono*, in which three large African drums provide the impetus for the fast and frenetic work performed by the male dancers. Hanson, Barrow's score accompanies *Ono*. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Coventry. Tel: 02476 323232. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Coventry. Tel: 02476 323232.

STRAITFORD A new season begins with *Everyman*, the early 16th-century morality play. Some parts are by Ben Jonson. The *Severn* is a more contemporary ending. Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni direct. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Stratford. Tel: 01783 256523. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Stratford. Tel: 01783 256523.

LONDON GALLERIES British Museum. *Mysteries of Ancient China* (0171-636 1555). Camden Arts Centre. *Samuel Hillman: Prints 1961-69* (0171-435 3543). Courtyard, St William's Church. *Architectural Drawings* (0171-437 3258). Tate Modern. *Antony Gormley: Field* (0171-437 3258). Tate Modern. *Antony Gormley: Field* (0171-437 3258). Tate Modern. *Antony Gormley: Field* (0171-437 3258).

GLASGOW Tickets are selling fast for *Les Boucasse* production of *Scrooge*. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Glasgow. Tel: 0171-437 3258. Tickets: £10-£25. Venue: The Royal Opera House, Glasgow. Tel: 0171-437 3258.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment
of the theatre scene in London

House full, returns only
Seats at all prices

MACBETH Fascinating production by Tom Alamy, with Roger Auman and Iain Glen. With David Tennant and Adrian Schiller. Theatres: Here for two weeks. Alameda, Alameda Road, W1 0171-259 4041. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 3pm. Until November 9.

LAUGHTER ON THE THIRD FLOOR Neil Simon's funny account of working around a team of songwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gilt, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-494 5045. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 3pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of
films in London and (where
relevant) elsewhere in the country

LOADED (18). Michael Smith makes a school-leavers making a movie. With Alan Rickman. ICA Cinema (0171-500 3847).

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THEATRE 1

Lottery money may have resurrected the Cambridge Arts Theatre, but Dadie Rylands was in at its birth

THEATRE 2

Piece of her art: Claire Storey's portrayal of Janis Joplin is a hit at the One Person Play Festival

THE TIMES
ARTS

TOMORROW

Michael Collins and all the other top new films are reviewed by Geoff Brown...

TOMORROW

... and the wraps come off the Lyceum for a new staging of Lloyd Webber's musical *Joseph*

Dadie of the light blues

The Cambridge Arts Theatre lives again, thanks to the lottery - and George Rylands. Daniel Rosenthal reports

George "Dadie" Rylands has more reason than any man alive to relish the imminent rebirth of one of England's most celebrated regional theatres. From 1946 to 1982, he was the Cambridge Arts Theatre's chairman and guiding spirit, overseeing its artistic policy and masterminding an appeal that staved off bankruptcy. But when the Arts closed in 1993, with no guarantee of financing a long overdue £8 million redevelopment, he feared it might never stage another play.

That was until May last year, when, as he puts it, "the lottery saved us" - a £5.7 million grant suddenly brought the target within reach. The Arts is scheduled to reopen on December 7, with vastly improved facilities for actors, technicians and audiences, and Rylands will be able to toast its regeneration in a new theatre bar, named Dadie's in his honour.

His administrative association with the Arts goes some way to explaining why, at the age of 94, he still commands such affection and respect in theatrical circles. But his standing owes more to his work as a Shakespearean scholar and director who nurtured the talents of Cambridge undergraduates such as Peter Hall and Derek Jacobi.

For the past 70 years, he has lived within 500 yards of the Arts. In the set of rooms at King's College which he was

allocated on gaining a fellowship in English (Leopard and Virginia Woolf published his doctoral dissertation), and which he promptly had decorated by artist friends, including Dora Carrington.

"Mad keen" on theatre since his schooldays at Eton, he acted a great deal while studying in English at King's - in the days when the university's few hundred female undergraduates were not permitted to act. "Men took all the women's roles. I played a disagreeable maiden aunt in an Edwardian comedy, *Electra* and the *Duchess of Malfi*," he recalls, sitting in his dining room bay window overlooking the Cam. Cecil Beaton's portrait of Rylands as the Duchess was the great photographer's first contribution to *Vogue*.

As a Fellow, he became great friends with John Maynard Keynes, then bursar of King's, and "a tremendous theatre-lover". Consulting Rylands at every stage, Keynes formulated a scheme to give Cambridge the small, modern theatre whose lack he felt so keenly. His plan to develop land opposite the college was approved in 1934. Two years and the modern equivalent of about £800,000 of Keynes's own money later, the 600-seat Arts was opened.

In its early days commercial success proved more elusive than critical acclaim. "We often sold so few seats - even for really good productions that we would hang curtains from the Circle to make the place look less empty," Rylands says.

He took over as chairman of

It was always in the back of my mind that we might have to close?

the Arts Theatre Trust when Keynes died, maintaining the eclectic programme of classic and contemporary drama and ballet which its founding father had established. "We had constant financial losses, partly because the touring companies we relied upon wanted more than we could pay as a guarantee against box-office receipts. It was always in the back of my mind that we might have to close."

In 1960 he co-ordinated an appeal which raised a

£100,000 endowment fund that was to keep the Arts afloat for 20 years. In the early 1980s another injection of capital was necessary, and Rylands's final act as chairman was to make a large personal donation.

The Marlowe Society productions in which he shone as an undergraduate were staged in the Arts from the late 1930s, with Rylands as director and star. He played Othello, Macbeth, King Lear - "the whole crew" - and Angelo in a 1948 *Measure for Measure* which went to Germany in the Berlin airlift.

Four years earlier, the London impresario H.M. Tennent had asked him to direct Peggy Ashcroft, one of his closest friends, and John Gielgud in *Hamlet* and *The Duchess of Malfi* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. "Tennent took quite a chance, asking a Cambridge don to do that, but the papers said both productions were exceptional."

The owner of a marvellously rich voice now slightly weakened by old age, Rylands holds strong views about how to speak Shakespeare on stage. "I am in the tradition of William Foel founder of the Elizabethan Stage Society in 1894. He was very good on sticking to the tempo and tone

of Shakespeare's language, so you could understand every word."

He instilled this credo in Cambridge students destined for glittering Shakespearean careers. John Barton, Trevor Nunn, Ian McKellen, Jacobi, Michael Pennington and Eleanor Bron are all products of that other RADA, the Rylands Academy of Dramatic Art.

Peter Hall, "Tybalt" in Rylands's 1952 *Romeo and Juliet*, says his appreciation of text gave generations of undergraduates invaluable training. "He taught us that speaking Shakespeare is about preserving the balance and beauty of the entire line, rather than emphasising single words as though they were in italics. His influence on British theatre, and particularly on performing Shakespeare, has been incalculable."

That influence was acknowledged when Rylands was appointed a Companion of Honour in 1987, and is to be celebrated by Jacobi, McKellen, Pennington and others in an evening of drama, comedy and music at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, on November 17. The proceeds will contribute to the £1 million cost of establishing a Rylands English Fellowship at King's.

Rylands modestly plays down such honours, but will admit to being "very glad" that the Arts (also home to the Cambridge Footlights) has proved such a fertile nursery for actors, comedians and directors. Failing eyesight prevents him from going to see new productions involving his sometime protégés, but he still rereads Shakespeare. "His plays have filled up so much of my time, and given me so much pleasure."

● Tickets for the Haymarket gala are available on 0171-930 6800. Tickets for the Arts Theatre's new season are available on 01223 502333



Dadie Rylands - English Fellow, inspirational director of Shakespeare and moving spirit of the Cambridge Arts Theatre - in the rooms he has occupied at King's College for 70 years

London's second One Person Play Festival offered 20 singular experiences

A selection of prime numbers

In some ways, the one-person play is the quintessential fringe experience: a statement, perhaps, to raise the spirits, evoking intimate evenings in the presence of a gifted raconteur. Or else to raise alarm, conjuring the boredom inflicted by some witless drone. The line comes from the programme to the Eccetera Theatre's second One Person Play Festival, a jamboree of 20 dramas selected from the 257 submitted.

I thought that I had already endured the quintessential fringe experience at the Camden venue some years ago, when I was one of an audience of four at a production of *Camelot* (yes, the musical). The Eccetera is a pub theatre with a stage no bigger than a walk-in wardrobe and a seating capacity of 50. Not the ideal venue for a spectacular, then, but a one-person play might find its natural habitat here, and a launching pad to even greater things. The last

festival, in 1991, led to a West End outing for Stephen Dinsdale's *Anorak of Fire*.

The one-person show has its more celebrated exponents, specialising in meandering confession (Spalding Gray), social observation (Alan Bennett), mime-storytelling (Steven Berkoff) and plain silliness (Ken Campbell). Regardless of style this is a merciless form, for everything comes down to two irreducible elements: the skill of the writer and that of the performer.

How do you keep the audience's attention for up to an hour when there is only one person talking? The plays that I saw came up with a variety of methods. Get It While You Can: A Conversation With Janis Joplin, by Roy Smiles, imagines a final conversation between an unheard interviewer and the singer. Claire Storey was so engagingly volatile as a woman consumed by drink, drugs and stardom that three members of the audience

lit cigarettes in the no-smoking auditorium, perhaps in like-minded communion.

Robert Young's *Obsession* opens with the grey-suited Paul Kemp on his side on the floor, saying calmly, "I love her. I love her. I love her." The object of his infatuation is actually his partner, with whom he enjoys a sado-masochistic relationship before she leaves him.

The entire show was presented as quiet reminiscence with a desperate edge, with Kemp at his eeriest. Young's prose flirts with various shades of purple, but lines like, "We lie there side by side, like a Twix", are the work of a wordsmith.

Face to the Voice, written and directed by Christopher Higgins, offers ample instruction on the art of bag-snatching. This is delivered by Chris Curran as Paul, whose story is ingeniously developed

through six short scenes. Paul instructs a young protégé on Oxford Street, recounts his exploits at a pub table and registers his alarm via a phone call after a snatch that went wrong. The play ends where it began, with a form of barefaced role reversal.

It might seem that the one-person show is the simplest kind of playwriting, but its strategies - monologue, flashback, part-conversation, even snatches of song or poetry - reveal its expanses. The most obvious pitfall is that it becomes monotonous, and a couple of the shows stumble close to the edge at points. But this is a useful festival which allows writers to flex their muscles, and those taking the opportunity include the more familiar names of Iain Heggie and Gillian Plowman. The four plays deemed most worthy will transfer to London's BAC next month.

ANDY LAVENDER

TO MOST people, Alanis Morissette is the epitome of the angry, angst-ridden female singer-songwriter. Those people have obviously never encountered Drugstore's frontwoman, Isabel Monteiro.

The evening started off calmly enough, with Monteiro singing *The Adventures of Isabel*, a strange little ditty inspired by an Ogden Nash poem of the same name, whose nonsense lyrics were so ridiculous that half the audience continued to sit on the floor, rather than move to the front for a better view.

Not that it was possible to see a great deal wherever you stood, since the Concorde's extremely low ceiling meant that the stage has been built just a few inches off the floor. Still, this did not detract from Drugstore's music, the full power of which was unleashed when they played their new single *Mondo Cane*, named after the legendary mid-1960s Italian exploitation documentary, also known as *It's a Dog's Life*. Even though Monteiro's vocals were not distorted in the way that they are on the record,

Torched by the singer

POP

Drugstore
Concorde, Brighton

Mondo Cane was one of the evening's most full-on, noisy moments, showing a significant departure from the haunting, Velvet Underground style of the trio's eponymous debut album, released almost two years ago.

Throughout the set, the Brazilian-born Monteiro fuelled her husky voice with endless cigarettes and red wine, swigged straight from the bottle. For all that

though, Monteiro is a subtle performer: so subtle that a song like *Nectarine* started off with her whispering "I love your blue eyes", but quickly descended into the lines, "I've still got the knife that I used to get rid of that guy," while Daron Robinson's guitar and Mike Chylinski's drums crashed around her.

The band chose several songs from their second album, which they are due to record over the next couple of months, including *White Magic For Lovers*, which sounds as if it had been influenced by Jefferson Airplane, before closing with a number that might have come straight out of a nightclub in 1930s Berlin.

They encored with an ill-advised cover of the Undertones' *Teenage Kicks*. However, for all the different directions Drugstore might take on their new album, they were still at their best on songs like *Accelerate*, which relied on little more than the blissed-out strength of Monteiro's voice.

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CHANGING TIMES

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HELLO!

Is it a good time to look for a more fulfilling job? Joan Llewellyn Owens asks the experts for their advice

When the grass looks greener...

During the recession, many people hung on to their jobs and were afraid to consider a move. Now, with an improving economic climate, some secretaries are beginning to feel restless.

Is it a good time for a change? Much depends on circumstances. If you are within ten years of pensionable age, you could lose out financially. If you have a young family and a job you can easily cope with, it may be a mistake to look for fresh fields.

"Most secretaries consider changing jobs because it is probably the best way to move up the career ladder," says Clare Francis, for Kelly Services. "If you are looking to move into junior management, you encounter the perception problem. However dynamic you are, you are always thought of as a secretary. In a large company you may be able to transfer to another department, but you may have to leave a small company."

Failure of the employer to provide adequate training is another good reason to go. The 1996 research report *Secretaries... Onwards and Upwards*, compiled by the

Industrial Society, reveals that many of the secretaries who did not plan to stay in their jobs complained that they were not given the training they felt they needed.

Another common reason for changing jobs is dissatisfaction with pay. Increased responsibilities may not be reflected in the salary. Ms Francis says: "Secretaries often get a welcome shock when they go into an agency to discuss the possibilities of moving and the agency says, 'We think you are worth between X and Y.'"

A move is not always necessary, says Amanda Fone, a director of Angela Mortimer. "If you take on additional tasks and are helping the team to become more efficient, you should draw up some kind of analysis, proving how you have contributed to the team's success."

Amanda Maine-Tucker, who has her own agency, advises change when there is a personality clash with a boss or other members of the team. However, if a secretary has good relationships with the people with whom she works, she should hesitate before making a break.

Why else should one move? Perhaps the job has no intrinsic



Janis Nowak says: "I had come to the point when I was looking for a new challenge"

interest. The happiest workers are often those who are able to find a job in which they can combine their work and their passion in life, such as music or the theatre.

Are you insufficiently stretched? Richard Grace, managing director of Gordon Yates, says: "It is important that people take their career

development into their own hands and, if it means a move to greater challenges elsewhere, they take it."

That was Janis Nowak's motive for leaving the merchant bank Schroeders, after 14 years as secretary to George Mallinckrodt, first chairman and then group president. "It wasn't that the job was boring

or too pressurised. I enjoyed the huge variety of tasks and the responsibility I was given, but I had come to the point when I was looking for a new challenge. I also wanted more time to study with the London School of Journalism with a view to moving into a PR-type role."

Ms Nowak made inquiries

about possible new jobs and talked to contacts, trying to work out where her skills would fit in. When national secretary to the European Association of Professional Secretaries, she had met Angela Mortimer, who later offered her the job of college-leaver executive in the agency.

She has been in the post for a year. Her organisational and communication skills are used to the full, for she talks to a wide range of people and plans presentations, which she writes herself, using Power Point. Her shorthand has been helpful for taking notes at meetings and on the phone.

The Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries (IQPS) knows of many instances of members who have, like Ms Nowak, moved into other work sectors, into personnel in particular, or recruitment agencies, where they are in a good position to know what employers want.

"Very few people have a career for life," Rachel Brown, general secretary of the IQPS, says. "When you write your CV it is no longer detrimental to say that you have done something else. Open-minded employers look at how people broaden their horizons and see it as an advantage."

When you look for a new job, ask yourself: Is the organisation likely to devote resources to my career development? Has it got an equal opportunities policy? Is it possible for a secretary to move into management? Is the company prospering? Will the work be of interest to me?

You can ask prospective employers the first three questions. They will respect you for being career-minded.

Some recruitment agencies will be able to answer the fourth, and annual reports or balance sheets of companies and partnerships can be obtained from Companies House.

If the company is a public one, read the financial pages of the quality press. And, should you belong to the IQPS, the European Association of Professional Secretaries, or Fasttrack, you can network with fellow members to find out more about local employers.

CIQPS, the general secretary, first floor, 6 Bridge Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RR; European Association of Professional Secretaries, membership secretary, Alison Lang, c/o BTR (01483 728221); Fasttrack, 37-39 Golden Square, London W1R 3AA; Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF4 3UT.

Award for Belfast PA

JAYNE Byrne, aged 33, of Belfast, has won the 1996 Business Pages Executive PA of the Year Award. She beat six other finalists in a competition involving an essay and two interviews.

Jane became PA to Brian Hanna, chief executive of Belfast City Council, in September 1994, setting up the office from scratch. "She combines a vibrant personality with excellent technical skills," he says.

Married, with three children, Jayne points to the ceasefire as a particularly busy time: "There were an awful lot of visitors to Belfast". A high spot was meeting President Clinton during his visit a year ago.



Winner Jayne Byrne

native of Belfast City Council, in September 1994, setting up the office from scratch. "She combines a vibrant personality with excellent technical skills," he says. Married, with three children, Jayne points to the ceasefire as a particularly busy time: "There were an awful lot of visitors to Belfast". A high spot was meeting President Clinton during his visit a year ago.

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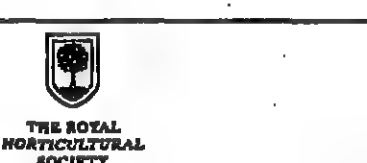
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MANHUNT - W.1. £27,000

Chairman of major player in Executive Search needs a high-flying PA with good A's levels or a degree. Absolute necessity. Board level experience in Corporate Finance or Investment banking. Sh preferred. Age 27-35.

MANHUNT - W.2. £23,000 + bonus

The delightful Director of a friendly, long-established, gentlemanly Executive Search company needs a new right hand. You'll be part of a great team and there's plenty of scope to put your exceptional organisational skills to good use. Essentials: good education, 80wpm, Windows 95. Good news - 9-5.30. Bad news - heavy typing load! Age 24-34.

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779



Secretary - Heathrow Area

c£16,000 p.a. plus benefits

News Digital Systems is an international high technology company providing systems for satellite and cable broadcasters.

Friendly, well-educated secretary is required for the Broadcast Systems Team. Candidates must be adaptable with pleasant, confident personality, able to work with minimum supervision. The person will be expected and should be keen to take on some responsibility.

Typing 65 wpm - Shorthand 100 wpm
Word for Windows: Excel: Powerpoint



Apply with CV to:
Personnel Administrator
News Digital Systems
1 Heathrow Boulevard
286 Bath Road,
West Drayton,
Middlesex UB7 0DQ

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MARKETING

P.A. to Managing Director

Central London, £££Excellent

Young, dynamic and very demanding M.D. requires a top quality personal assistant with excellent office management and administrative ability and strong communication skills. Ideally developed in sports, media or marketing.

Key criteria are self-motivation, ambition and a commitment to excellence.

Top class benefits package plus a rewarding and stimulating office environment.

CV's to: Sandra Armstrong
Accounts Receivable
Gibbs House, Kew Road, Acton, Bucks SL5 7NT

PA to Managing Director

£18 - 20 K Prestigious W1 Offices
Experienced PA required for Managing Director of a company specialising in investment management. Must have excellent organisational and administrative skills. Excellent knowledge of English and German written and spoken. Must be able to work independently. Experienced in time management. Able to organise working diary, arrange meetings, travel etc.

CV's to:
Personnel Dept.
Edwin Hughes & Co Ltd
25 Manchester Square
London W1M 5AP

MARKETING PA - 24K + Bonus + Exc

Ben Young Dynamic MD of a leading Organisation seeks right hand person. PA and marketing role. Skills: W/W 60 wpm, Powerpoint, Excel, with exp in a similar role.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT £22K + EXC BEN

Shed admin support to Managing Director. Excellent communication/organisational and telephone skills. Excellent written skills. Excellent knowledge of English and German written and spoken. Must be able to work independently. Experienced in time management. Able to organise working diary, arrange meetings, travel etc.

Link People 0171 229 9896 Fax 0171 229 9897

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Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

City...City...City...City...City...City

Senior PA (1:1) Banking £25,000+

Prestigious investment bank requires a professional PA to support a high profile MD. This is an internally focused role involving extensive liaison at senior level both in London and internationally. A commitment to excellence, flair for organisation as well as good Word for Windows and Excel are essential. Please call Gill.

Telephone: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

Co-ordinating PA £23,000

Top City firm needs an exceptional PA for their Partner in charge of marketing. This exciting role will provide a self motivated and creative individual with daily challenges, including co-ordinating the department, devising initiatives and organising courses. You will be fully appreciated for your charm, communication skills and energy. Windows/Freehand/Powerpoint. Please call Ella.

Telephone: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

West End...West End...West End

Natural Health £15-18,000 Wimbledon

Production Director and Marketing/Sales Director of leading manufacturers of complementary medicines require an experienced Senior Secretary. This is a fast moving, busy role encompassing all aspects of running their business lives. Sound Director level experience and good WP skills essential. Short hand (30+) useful. Beautiful offices and wonderful product. Please call Elizabeth Wood.

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

Fashion Flair? £17,000 + Bens West End

A fantastic opportunity has arisen for a second jobber/college leaver to work alongside the Chairman's PA in a well-known international high street retailer. You must be ambitious, confident and eager to learn, with an A Level education, excellent telephone manner, typing and 80 wpm. For this exciting next step in an exciting company, please call Lucy Thomas.

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

The Crone Corkill Temporary Team would like to invite you to an Open Evening on WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Have you ever considered temping?
Are you temping now, but looking for more from your agency?
Here is a golden opportunity to find out more about temping for one of London's premier secretarial agencies.

- Our top rates
- Our AIR MILES incentive for temps
- Our superb client base
- Our commitment to our temporary team

Interested?
Then join us on 13th November from 5.30pm onwards.
Everyone attending will automatically be entered for our Champagne prize draw.
Please call now to reserve your place on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

Executive Assistant to £22,000

Fantastic opportunity to join this leading creative company to work with a senior and respected Director. Acting as an ambassador to the company you'll need to use your excellent communication skills when dealing with people at a very senior level. In addition you will have the responsibility for many projects which require a degree of initiative and a proactive and enthusiastic approach. Experience at a senior level and Microsoft Office required.

Call Caroline Gales on 0171 437 6032

TEMP TO PERM

CORPORATE FINANCE SECRETARIES

We urgently need team spirited secretaries, for a major European, City based Investment Bank. Opportunities have arisen which require first rate skills, together with a knowledge of MS Office. Temporary rates are £11.00 ph.

Permanent salaries are amongst the highest in the City. Previous finance/banking experience essential. Aged 25-35 yrs.

Please contact Debra Berry
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 625 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

TRADING FLOOR PA

£22,000 + MS + BENS

Organise corporate entertainment, arrange meetings, co-ordinate invoicing, take minutes at meetings... These are just a few of the duties involved in this exciting Trading Floor PA role working for a premier Investment Bank. The ideal candidate will have an 'A' level education, a banking background and a confident personality.

Please contact Melinda Marks
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 625 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

GRADUATE RECRUITMENT

£22,000 + MS + BENS

This is an outstanding opportunity to work for a leading US Investment House. An extremely varied role providing administrative and secretarial support to the Department. Duties include preparing presentations to give to Universities and Business Schools, co-ordinating recruitment events such as receptions, maintaining expenses and compiling status reports. Graduate preferred.

Please contact Margaret Sorokan
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 625 1266 Fax: 0171 626 1242

STILL SPOILT FOR CHOICE AGE 22 +

£18,000 - EXECUTIVE ASST. - Charming CEO of real estate is looking for a truly exceptional PA with impressive CV. Banking exp. Age 22+.
£25,000 - ARTWORKER - As PA to MD in the leading Art Gallery you will assist Art Sales. Deal with well known personalities and an important number of a busy demanding team. 30 wpm typ. 80 wpm. French useful.
£18,000 - BORN ORGANISER - Co-ordinate Roundhouse for leading City Company. Must be bright, active, 25-35 yrs. Age 22+.
£16,000 - FAMOUS CHARITY - Support top MD in charity investment in a major fund raising. 100 wpm typ. 80 wpm.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

0171 468 0400

SECRETARY/PA £18000

EALING

Recent expansion into Paris by a high profile blue-chip company has opened a position for a very experienced Secretary/PA. Your complete range of secretarial skills will be utilised - shorthand dictation, diary management, minute taking and travel itineraries - as well as supervision of receptionist, services and trades people. Office maintenance will include company car tax and insurance, personnel admin and cash sheets and banking. This demanding role requires a senior professional with a meticulous approach. Some aptitude in French is desirable but not essential.

For more information on Permanent appointments contact Sally or for Temporary assignments contact Jayne on 0161 556 2166.
56 The Mall, Ealing, London W5 3TA.



TEMPS, TEMPS, TEMPS!! CALL TODAY AND WORK TOMORROW

As a Pan European temp you will be open to all sorts of opportunities - a variety of long and short term bookings, a wide range of companies from top City Merchant Banks to well known PLC's in the West End and temporary to permanent assignments. We also offer:

- A chance to win £1000 cash prize
- Paid Holidays
- 52 weeks of work per year

All you need is good audio and/or shorthand skills, a knowledge of Windows packages and to be aged between 20-40. Give us a call to work immediately.

FORGET OPEN EVENINGS WE'RE OPEN EVERY EVENING!!

CITY & WEST END
OFFICES
CONSULTANTS
WILL INTERVIEW
AT YOUR
CONVENIENCE

DIRECTORS SECRETARY

City Bank - £20,000 +

"If you can keep your head whilst all about you are losing theirs..." could have been written as the description of this role! Working for a small team of Senior Executives the pressure will be on as you deal with a high volume of admin, general typing and ever ringing telephones. Great fun if you can cope! (w/h/80/60 typing; W4W and Excel)

PRESENTATIONS SECRETARY

Top City Based Company

£18,500 + Superb Benefits

No long hours!!
Dynamic and creative role awaits a secretary who has excellent Powerpoint, enjoys client contact and organising presentation arrangements down to the last detail. Forget the run of the mill secretarial jobs, this is a very special role and needs a committed and enthusiastic person. No long hours!!

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

WA £20K

MINI OFFICE MANAGER

This is an excellent opportunity for a graduate secretary with at least a year's experience who is keen to expand their role to work in the start-up office of this successful US finance firm. You will need to have a proactive approach as you will be doing everything from organising meetings to setting up systems and purchasing office equipment. Good systems knowledge, 50 wpm typing and City knowledge essential. Please call Kate Hodson.

0 1 7 1 2 2 5 1 8 8 8
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £22K + BKG BENS

CITYSLICKER

Superb opportunity for a "juggling genius" to organise this dynamic director and his team! You will be an excellent secretary, keen to take on a busy and challenging role. Your work will involve a great deal of organising and co-ordinating as you will be the linchpin of the team. If you have plenty of energy and personality for this demanding, energetic environment and want to work in the world of international finance, call now!

0 1 7 1 2 2 5 1 8 8 8
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

Success £22,000

The company has been established for twelve months and is already based on the U.K.'s Office. It's founder is looking for a PA who can handle the day to day running of the office, deal with Bankers, Auditors, Accountants & the Press, who are also looking for a lot of interest in the company. You also need to be a self-starter who can work alone.

0171 493 2888
HERITAGE
FOUNDER

PA - W1

New office of International Market leading Consultancy requires PA to Marketing Director. Pw/28 wpm with database/W4W exp. Audio shorthand, ability to work alone with good organisational/telephone skills along with excellent appearance and attitude. 2 mus.

Good salary package for right person. Fax your CV directly 0171 491 8776.

SIMPLY THE BEST £16,000

Enjoy top base, great social life & career progression within leading US Cons. See 1st/2nd jobber, see training prog. 30wpm typ. Free meals, gym, training. 5 weeks hol.

Val Wade Rec Cons. 0171 437 3793

Legal Secretary /PA for Senior Partner

High profile position available within well known law firm. Experience of conveyancing /litigation, general commercial and office administration essential. Knowledge of Word for Windows and Excel preferred.

You will be organised, responsible and confident, to grow with this position.

Salary £16,000
PLEASE WRITE WITH CV TO
JOHN HAY & CO
74 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET,
HAYWARD,
LONDON W1Y 6AH
(NO AGENCIES)

GROSVENOR

IF YOU HAVE TO WORK... WHY NOT ENJOY IT?

£23,000 - PA - pub management Co need senior PA to join growing team. Working for the Financial Director, you will be expected to use your initiative. 6th Floor City is required, 50wpm typ + W4W. Regular hours + lovely company - what more could you want?

UP TO £20,000 - PA - upmarket clothing Co need PA to work for Operations Director. Previous experience in a quality retail organisation (not in an international environment). Strong admin + people skills as well as energy, enthusiasm + lively personality. Language skills beneficial.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CO - £220,000 - Docklands location, young, fun, international photographic organisation need bright PA to MD. This boss is constantly on the move so he needs PA to 'hold the fort' + possess the ability to prioritise. Urgent sec duties. 30wpm typ + W4W.

CHARITY - PA - £16,000 - graduate culture PA for busy Director of high profile charity. This PA will be expected to use higher brain, initiative + sec skills plus develop the role. 30wpm typ. W4W. s/h useful not ess. Previous financial or legal experience may be useful.

GROSVENOR BUREAU
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
TEL: 0171 499 6566 FAX: 0171 493 6320

TDI

PA TO DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

TDI Head Office: £18,000ps

Busy advertising company require bright, confident person with initiative, flexible attitude and friendly disposition to work in a fast pace team environment.

Fast accurate typing with shorthand essential. Good knowledge of Wordperfect, Word for Windows and Lotus/Excel. Must possess excellent organisational skills and good telephone manner.

Hours 8:30am - 5:30pm Mon-Frid.
Please write enclosing CV to Miss Marion Fudge
TDI Advertising Ltd, 10 Jamestown Road,
Camden, London NW1 7BY

MAINE-TUCKER RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WE'RE HEADHUNTING YOU!

£220K + MED + EXTRA HOLS

20-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

PUBLIC RELATIONS £18-20K

3 Top Corporate PR consultancies require PR assistants to work for dynamic account teams. If you are bored with banking, fed up with finance and are wishing to work proactively in varied, challenging, team environments where you will have your own projects and responsibilities. (50wpm typing). Please call LISA KELLY.

A Division of Graduate Appointments
MEDIA
appointments
Tel: 0171-47 5542
Fax: 0171 379 0113
7a Langley Street
London WC2H 9JA

quietly confident WITH graphics?

£18,000 + package - SW1
GORDON-YATES
A position for recruitment

The Company: Small, long established strategy consultancy specialising in key international industries.

The Role: Secretarial support to MD and two senior consultants; development of complex OHP material using Freehand/Powerpoint skills.

The Benefits: Friendly, supportive environment (top one ever least) involving, interesting role.
Call 0171-484 4466, let's talk!

A fast-growth challenge

£20,000 + benefits
GORDON-YATES
A position for recruitment

The Company: One of the real success stories of the last ten years, a rapidly expanding retail chain still led by its dynamic founding partners.

The Role: Providing one-to-one Sec/PA support to the partner responsible for all of the legal and financial detail behind their dynamic deal-making.

The Essentials: Confident skills; an eye for detail; good track record.
Find out more. Call 0171-494 4466, let's talk!

Marketing Assistant £18,000+ Banking Bens

Thriving West-End bank needs an enthusiastic, resourceful assistant to join their marketing department. You will be an active member of a fast-moving, high profile team with specific responsibilities for researching & collating client information, managing a sophisticated database, information, managing a team of reports, and manipulating & controlling figures for reports, and organising & controlling overseas travel (often complicated). Probably a secretary from a financial background, you will have a confident, proactive attitude with a willingness to develop.

Banking PA 23K + Benefits
Financial Admin/PA with any European language. Excellent prospects for promotion and career development.
London PA 20K + Benefits
English w/strong standard. Financial Admin. Must be able to use Cyrillic keyboard, W4W and Excel.
Shipping Administrator 15K
Seafarer on Deck with L/Cs, bill of exchange, Air/Sea road freight.
Marketing Secretary 15K
Creative Copywriting and layout. Windows 3.11, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Typing, English.
Age 19-24.
Research Assistant with German 15K
Labour over operator. Silver PA or Group experience. Pw/28 wpm.
Groups Co-ordinator in Travel 10K
Career in Travel. See a job. Gam of a job. Young lucky lady. W4W exp.
TEMS TYPES IN BETWEEN JOBS IN A RUT? W4W. TYPING ASSIGNMENTS.
TOP COMPETITIVE RATES PAID. LANG AND NON LANG.

RECRUITMENT
COM-PAN-Y
0171-531-1220 25 GARRICK STREET WC2E 6AR

GREYTHORN

EXPERT JUGGLER INVESTMENT HOUSE £20,000 + EXC BENS

Leading player in the investment banking field requires a proactive, forward thinking PA to support two young & dynamic Executives. You will become fully involved in all aspects of a growing, expanding business, so an inquisitive mind and plenty of initiative is essential. The workload includes client liaison, diary management and co-ordination of travel arrangements as well as assisting with the marketing database, presentation work and ad-hoc project work. To secure an interview, you will need a strong academic background, Windows exp and an energetic, enthusiastic approach. Beautiful offices, West End.

For a confidential meeting with one of our consultants,
Please call 0171 821 9699

GREYTHORN PLC
6 Beaufort Place, London WC1A 2DA
Tel: 0171 821 9999 Fax: 0171 821 2233

PA - VICE PRESIDENT, THEME PARKS LEISURE ORGANISATION £18,000 + EXC BENS

Young Vice President (aged 29), needs a bright, intelligent secretary to provide a full secretarial and admin service including some presentation work. He travels abroad extensively so you'll need to manage work in his absence and hold the fort. Extensive experience on Word for Windows and Powerpoint, with a typing speed of 60 wpm including audio will be required. The co offers superb benefits in addition to the salary which includes discounts on holidays and entertainment and a company bonus and share save scheme. Fabulous working environment close to Marina Arch.

Contact Hours: 9.00am - 5.30pm

0171 222 5091

NOR

BANKING ON YOU... £21,000+

To use your enterprising & dynamic PA skills (S/H: 80/90 wpm) to organise the Director of Corporate Finance within this high profile bank. Senior level exp together with excellent communication skills. Age mid 20s-35 yrs + W4W. Superb offices & benefits including O/T, pension & gym.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUX - £220,000
Charming, young French M.D. of West End based firm company req's a bilingual (B/F English) sec for true PA role. Line typing (min 60 wpm), plenty of organising, liaising with producers, writers, directors & org extensive travel etc. Age late 20-40s W4W.

NORMA SKEMP REC LTD
0171 222 5091

NEW HOMES

FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND ANY OF OUR OTHER PROPERTIES ACROSS LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST CALL ANY OF OUR SALES OFFICES TODAY.

DOVER

Pole £189,950 01256 814314
Canford Cliff. The last opportunity to purchase at this prestigious development of sixteen 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments in a private, secure setting, close to both the beach and village centre. Secure storage area, the use of a gymnasium and a corner (topical).

HARPENDEN

Brooklands, New Forest £175,000 01256 814314
Forest Park House. An individual 5 bedroom family home situated in one of Brooklands' premier locations, enjoying a south east facing garden. The property features a concrete middle floor and is set in a fully landscaped garden.

East Meon £300,000 to £400,000 01256 814314
Leydene Park. A prestigious development with spectacular views over the Meon Valley and across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Featuring twenty new detached family homes, most with substantial grounds, alongside the conversion of Leydene House. Our Marketing Suite, in the magnificent reception hall of Leydene House, which dates back to the 18th century, is open from 10am until 4pm every day. Join us and discover the beauty of this unique location.

Penningsham, in Lymington £355,000 01256 814314
The Old Barn House, Manor Farm House. On the south west edge of Lymington, a superb barn conversion - the last remaining of a courtyard development of just four homes. With vaulted ceilings and feature gallery and 5 bedrooms, the property is fully fitted and carpeted throughout. Viewing by appointment.

PART EXCHANGE
IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON
SELECTED PROPERTIES.
PLEASE ASK FOR DETAILS.

LONDON

Pottery, SW15 From £25,500 01628 770070
Dancemere Street. A secure, gated development only a short walk from good shops and restaurants, these 4 bedroom town houses have been meticulously designed using brick detailing, rendered features, ironwork and attractive pillars entrances. The high specification includes luxury kitchens and bathrooms and appealing bay windows to drawing rooms and master bedrooms. Only three remaining.

MIDDLESEX

Hampshire Village From £269,500 01628 770070
Wensleydale Road. Two 4 bedroom detached properties with integral garages, located in the heart of this popular riverside village and within easy walking distance of the main station and shops.

SURREY

Staines From £197,500 01628 770070
Laleham Reach. Just four 4 bedroom detached properties situated on the borders of Laleham and Staines, with attractive Victorian styling and 180ft rear gardens, adjoining fields. The BR station is within easy reach. Only two remaining.

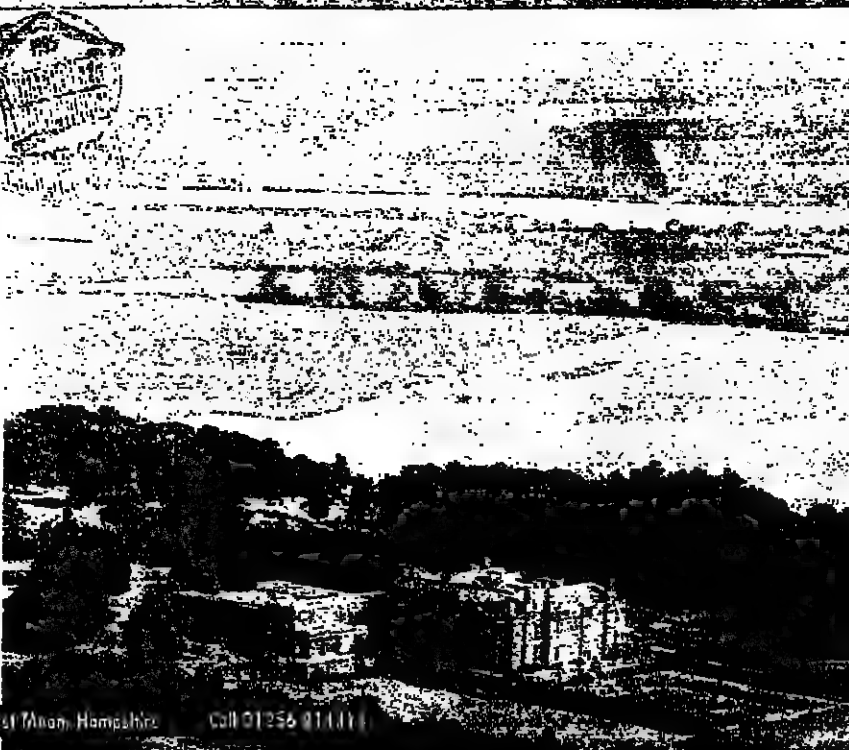
SUSSEX

Cross-in-Hand £500,000 01403 211230
Greenwood House. A stunning detached 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom country house, standing in extensive grounds of five acres with far reaching views towards the south coast.

SUSSEX

Redgwick From £330,000 01403 211230
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Heartache of a 'faulty' new home

Rachel Kelly on disputes with the builders when taking possession of a new house — and how other buyers can manage to avoid or resolve them

It is an otherwise ordinary house. The garden is lawned, the windows square, the roof is as you would expect a roof to be. But the fence of this detached house in Bedfordshire has a large sign attached, which reads: "After moving in it took 103 days to finish our kitchen. Also we have 112 faults in the house so far."

This is the tale of the house the Blowers bought at a new Wimpey development, called Springfields, in Barton-le-Clay. So angry are the couple, that Janet, an otherwise mild-mannered 40-year-old retired civil servant, and her tax-collector husband, Stephen, 42, are trying to warn others off the development.

Mr and Mrs Blower say that since they moved into the three-bedroom house last summer they have endured a catalogue of problems: faulty plumbing on the washing machine, cracked lavatory seats, damaged cupboards and a warped gate. They also claim that they have had problems getting the builders to sort out the faults since they bought the £82,000 house.

The couple claim they were forced to take the house when it was unfinished and dirty — after being told that it would be sold to someone else if they didn't move in by June 28, the date given to them by Wimpey.

"We weren't ready to move, and the house wasn't ready either," says Mrs Blower. "Lots of the things we'd asked for hadn't been done and the painters were still in the house on the day we moved. They'd got our money and the house was still being built around us."

Since June, she says, workmen from Wimpey have been visiting the house three or four times a week. "This has caused us much stress and worry and we feel we should be compensated." The couple, however, admit that so far Wimpey has done everything to put right the property. It has resurfaced the drive, has replaced lavatory seats, sanded down and repainted doors and renewed a wardrobe surround.

Elaine Mitchell, a spokeswoman for Wimpey, says: "As we have explained to Mr and Mrs Blower, in view of the circumstances relating to this



Janet Blower outside her new Wimpey home: the sign on the fence alerts other would-be buyers to her bad experience

case, it is difficult for us to see sufficient grounds for any compensation without further documentation to substantiate their claim.

"With regard to the circumstances surrounding the move-in day, there were problems that made that day far from the ideal that we all would have liked. But we feel that we fully explained the reasons why to Mr and Mrs Blower at the time, and we have subsequently corrected any problems in liaison with them."

Each year, roughly 120,000 new homes are sold in the UK, and the Blowers' case is clearly exceptional. "In 20 years, I have never come across a case like this before," says Vivien Aldred, deputy director of the House-Builders' Federation.

The best way to avoid prob-



Wimpey took 103 days to finish the kitchen, claims Janet

lems like the Blowers' is to buy through a solicitor or a surveyor, says a spokeswoman for the Consumers' Association. Take care with your contract, she adds. "Contracts are key, and your recourse will depend

on its terms and conditions." As well as thoroughly reading the contract, buyers should make sure that they — with the help of their solicitor — also help to write it, as it is negotiable, she says. "If the

contract states a date to move in by, builders are obliged to comply and should ensure that the finishing date of the house is long before the move-in date."

The game is to avoid problems in advance. Elizabeth Male, from the National House Building Council, the standard-setting and regulatory body of the housebuilding industry, says: "Check the builder is registered with the NHBC. Talk to previous customers to check the builder's standards. See if the site is tidy and well managed. Turn up on site at an unexpected time. A good sign is a fluttering flag which says that the site manager has won an award under the NHBC's pride in the job scheme."

Some niggles may be hidden when you first move in. If

for example, you move in during the summer, then the central heating won't normally be tested until winter. But you could turn it on for a short spell to check for any leaks or faults, and then report them immediately to the builders so that repairs can be done before the cold weather arrives.

The NHBC provides a useful check-list to work through on handover day to weed out problems you might otherwise miss. Outside: look for problems with brickwork, roofing, paintwork, pipes and drainage, garages, drives, pathways, walls and gates. Inside: pay attention to windows, doors and frames, staircases, ceilings, walls, floors and wall tiling, pipes, radiators and fireplaces, kitchen and bathroom fittings and appliances.

If problems arise, the first port of call is the builders, provided they are still in business. Thereafter, the NHBC issues a ten-year warranty, known as the "Buildmark" which guarantees the quality of a new home.

Began in the 1960s, the warranty has insured five million new homes. There are currently 1.75 million warranty policyholders in Britain, and the NHBC has £600 million in its coffers to meet any legitimate claims when things go wrong.

The warranty covers three periods: before completion, which protects against the builders going bankrupt before construction is finished; in the first two years, when it is the builders' responsibility to rectify faults; and between years three and ten when the NHBC will put faults right.

When the NHBC is satisfied that a new home conforms to its standards, the Buildmark warranty comes into force. Homebuyers should check that the house has one. The NHBC can pursue insurance claims against the builder, and if need be move families out until their house is fixed.

The NHBC has a range of publications which provide information on the organisation, the new home, and what to do if things go wrong. Available from Elizabeth Male, Buildmark House, Chilvers Avenue, Ayr, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, PA16 8AP, tel 01494 434477.

Flanked by steel and glass, a gem of a home designed by Inigo Jones

For sale: the tower fit for a City trader

THE CORPORATION of London is always eager to encourage people to live in the City. But few of its properties are so desirable or unusual as St Alban Tower.

Lying between Bank, St Paul's and Moorgate in the middle of Wood Street, EC2, the belltower, currently leased by the property developers MEPC, was once part of St Alban Church. The church itself was destroyed during an air raid in 1940 but the tower, flanked by two trees, modern offices and one of London's oldest police stations, remains straight and true.

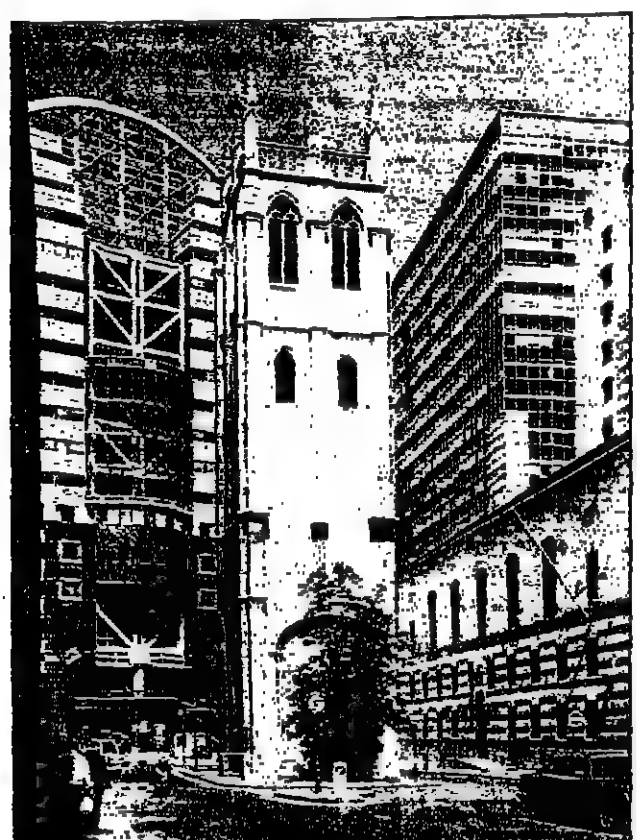
The property, which can be sold only to a limited liability company, has recently come back on the market after a leasing arrangement earlier this summer fell through. Planning consent is for mixed use: a residential flat with offices or studio. The tower has a kitchen, bathroom and

dining room, and is for sale through Knight Frank with a guide price of £300,000.

The original Church of St Alban, attributed to Inigo Jones, was badly damaged by the Great Fire of London. Sir Christopher Wren was then commissioned to rebuild it. But historians have suggested that the site was originally occupied by a chapel adjoining the palace of King Offa of Mercia.

A stone spiral staircase leads to a roof terrace with Gothic turrets and panoramic views. Ceiling heights and window styles vary in each room, and original features have been strikingly adapted for home use. The dining room and kitchen, for instance, are linked by a dumb waiter which appears in the middle of the dining table.

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St Alban Tower in Wood Street at the heart of the City

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TRAFALGAR HOUSE EUROPE

FOOTBALL: ARSENAL STRIKER DESPERATE TO MAKE MOST OF ENGLAND RECALL

Wright senses his golden opportunity

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

SITTING in the commentary box watching Oliver Bierhoff score the "golden goal" that won the European championship for Germany in the summer, Ian Wright felt only a striker's envy. No one, he thought, would have been better suited to the instant thrill, the winner-takes-all mentality, of such a moment. "That was made for me," he said on the eve of England's departure for Georgia yesterday.

The more immediate question is whether, in the absence of Alan Shearer, Glenn Hoddle will ask Wright to transfer his recent golden touch for Arsenal in the Premiership to the World Cup cause in Tbilisi on Saturday. Wright has flattered to deceive in the past and there are plenty of good judges willing to testify that he will

Duncan Ferguson, the Everton striker, has been withdrawn from the Scotland squad to face Sweden in the World Cup qualifying match at Ibrox on Sunday because of a calf strain. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "It's a shame for Duncan and Scotland. He is not fit to travel or train."

never graduate to the highest class. Wright was looking for one of his newspaper critics yesterday, "just to have a quiet word in his ear".

Equally, in a limited international career of 20 caps, ten as substitute, he has shown glimpses of the scoring form that commands such idolatry and influence at Highbury. His late equaliser against Poland gave Graham Taylor's beleaguered England side a glimmer of hope on the last World Cup trail, his four goals against San Marino came too late to matter. The evidence is inconclusive.

The England coach will judge Wright on merit rather than history anyway, and he will count himself lucky that in Wright and Robbie Fowler, he has two strikers capable of manufacturing goals from the thinnest material. Like so



Wright credits his revival to the more mature managerial approach at Highbury. Now he wants the chance of a "last blast" against Georgia.

many strikers, a volatile temperament is Wright's strength and weakness. Yesterday, bubbly, witty and confident, clearly overjoyed at being able to celebrate his 33rd birthday last Sunday back in an England track suit, he was unrecognisable from the forlorn, sulky figure at the heart of the infighting that cost Bruce Rioch his job as the manager of Arsenal five days before the start of the season.

Even now, the impression is that the popularity that prompted queues to form the

length of the shopping centre in Redhill last week for a book signing is not shared by his team-mates. But Wright has long regarded tact as an overrated virtue, along with modesty. It is a matter of mind, he says.

"I feel I can do anything I want to as long as my mind's right," he said. "And my mind is right. I always felt like I wanted to do so well when I played for England, it was killing me. Now I feel a lot better about it because this is a bonus. I wasn't expecting it."

Wright attributes his revival to the arrival of Arsène Wenger and Patrick Vieira at Arsenal. Once again, he is the first option, not the last resort. "Patrick is doing really well for me," he said. "It's been a long time since we had a midfielder player who actually looks for the run of the front man first and then considers the safer options in midfield. Before, I would make a run and the ball wouldn't go there, and that got a bit frustrating. Wenger's more studious methods have come as light

relief to Wright after the barrack-square approach of the previous regime. "He's a cultured sort of guy, laid-back in his coaching," Wright said. "That old-school method, the fear factor, frightening kids into wanting to play well. I think that's in the past. The game has moved on." It has helped Wright's England case, that Hoddle learnt many of his coaching techniques from Wenger with AS Monaco. "Treat people like adults and you get the best out of them on the pitch," he said.

In return, Wright might dispense with some of his more puerile antics. He is acting more middle-aged, at least, going to bed at 10.30pm instead of 12.30am. "I read to my son and to sleep first," he said. The odds are still on Wright resuming his place among the England substitutes on Saturday, but there would be few better ways to celebrate what he calls a "last blast" than with one of his own brand of golden goals.

Chipping away at sporting impregnability

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

Peter Schmeichel has lost more than a few football matches. And he has lost something rather more than his confidence as well. What he has lost is his personal myth. The point is not the new legend, that Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, is vulnerable to the chip shot. It is that Schmeichel is vulnerable at all.

He should have won the footballer-of-the-year award last season. His team won the FA Carling Premiership on the home stretch by a succession of results that read 1-0 (Eric Cantona 89min). People concentrated on the ones, but it was the incessant nits that broke hearts and minds.

Schmeichel was the master of the null. No one else could do what he did: close down a player by doubling in size. Early it was his positioning and bulk, but mainly it was his personal mythology of impregnability. That was what made him a giant.

He conceded two goals against Chelsea on Saturday. In normal circumstances, his team would have won 1-0. The first goal came in a ridiculous sort of parks football flap at Duberry's header; the second when he hesitated on his line, giving Vialli a chance to run at him. This was not a physical error, it was a mental one, and therefore much more serious.

It is not simply that Schmeichel has lost belief in himself. It is that the world has also ceased to believe. Schmeichel has, in the eyes of all that play against him, shrunk to normal size. He is just another big fellow in a fancy jumper. And his goal has grown immense behind him. The myth has gone.

Cantona has suffered from the same thing. He is a man who has always cherished his personal myth with particular care, cold, brilliant, certain. "I know only one way to take penalties, and that is to score them." His self-shattering penalty miss, against his old club, Leeds United, of all teams, was buried in his team's 4-0 victory, but that is where the damage was done, and perhaps it was also the moment when the crisis at Old Trafford began.

True, Cantona scored twice the next week, against Nottingham Forest, but his form has been on a steady downward slope, for he had revealed to his opponents his humanity, his vulnerability. Nothing could ever be quite the same again. This was defined for all time against Chelsea on Saturday when, with a clear chance before him, Cantona missed the ball. An airshot. His myth was now hanging in tatters.

We see again and again this destruction of mythologies. It is part of sport's eternal pattern, for sport is a world in which mere men are — briefly, briefly — privileged to look like supermen. Perhaps the most vivid and terrible example of such destruction I have seen involved Graeme Hick. It was terrible because it was personal.

Hick, coming in to international cricket after seven years of lip-smacking anticipation, was the core of the England battle-plan against West In-

dies. The core of the West Indies plan, then, was to beat him. Curtly Ambrose, the leader of the West Indies attack, took it on himself to do the task, as a leader should. This is not vindictiveness; this is sport. And in a few short weeks, Hick's personal mythology — the finest bat we have seen for a generation — was lost and gone forever.

To this day, I do not believe that Hick was afraid of the ball. I believe that he was afraid of Ambrose. Hick had destroyed bowlers with amiable insouciance, but now he was opposed by a bowler who wanted to destroy him. It was the intensity of this battle of wills that he could not take; the utterly personal nature of the attack. It was the crisis of his life, and he sunk to meet it. It was cruel, it was riveting, it was utterly legitimate, and if we protest that Hick is an amiable fellow, there are words about heat and kitchens that cover the situation.

Greg Norman, the golfer, has come as close as anyone can get to being the next Nicklaus. Except that he became another to suffer from the implosion of his personal mythology. It happened on a smaller scale in motor racing this season. Damon Hill dominated everything, and then found his new myth of dominance destroyed. It happens all the time, with great champions. You are never quite certain how much is due to physical and mental decline, how much to the erosion of personal myth. Perhaps, for some, they are inseparable.

Yet Bjorn Borg was at the height of his powers when he at last lost at Wimbledon, to John McEnroe, freshly arrived at the peak of his own. Monica Seles was so dominant that she looked like the complete history of tennis for the next decade, but her myth was broken in the terrible circumstances of a knife attack, and after her courageous return, she found that her sense of invulnerability had gone.

It is more poignant to see the defeat of a champion, a has-been, than of a never-worrior. Never-worriors understand about defeat, have learnt how to deal with it. Defeat is what they are good at. But the champion whose myth has been shattered must redefine not his game, but his entire world. Moral: winners always have more to lose than losers. Those who inspire our awe generally end up inspiring our pity.

Ferguson prepares ground for his next ten-year plan

TODAY marks Alex Ferguson's tenth anniversary as manager of Manchester United. It is a safe bet that, while everyone else is looking back over the ten years which established him as one of the two most successful managers in the history of the club, the man himself is planning for the next ten.

"Aye, I'm still hungry, I've no thoughts of retiring," he said last week. The idea is inconceivable for such a workaholic. His immediate concern is more with ending United's unexpected poor run of results than with any records. In particular, his priority is getting back on track in the European Cup Champions' League, which he sees as the target he must reach to ensure that his place in the United pantheon is alongside Sir Matt Busby.

In some ways, he is already there. His eight leading trophies have come in ten years; Busby took 24. But Ferguson's eight do not include the European Cup and, after the defeat by Fenerbahce last Wednesday, which ended United's 40-year unbeaten home record in

Peter Ball finds the manager of Manchester United reflecting on a decade at Old Trafford

Europe, that trophy is again looking beyond him. However, few will doubt him when he said of the recent run, "we will recover. The ten years have prepared you for what has happened in the past two weeks. My own determination will always be that you don't accept defeat, you find a way to recover from it."

Success did not arrive until 1990 and, famously, he was on the brink of dismissal until his new team won the FA Cup in 1990. Ferguson insists that being sacked never entered his thinking. "All I was concerned with was making United successful." Besides, I never thought anyone would be daft enough to sack me. He was only half joking.

That was the beginning of the years of success, the arrival of Eric Cantona finally lighting the touch-paper — and bringing problems in its wake. "It was a question of adding players who are winners," he said. "Winners

change things." The mix was explosive. "You don't know what the mix is going to be when it all comes together — it brings volatility, because they are all winners, all desperate to win," he said.

At one stage the desperation to win nearly became too much. On the way to the double in 1994, United suffered five sendings-off in the space of a month and a year later Cantona vaulted the barrier at Selhurst Park, giving Ferguson the most difficult decision of his ten years.

Famously, in the end, he stood by Cantona. But as the season ended with second places in League and Cup, Kanchelskis, Hughes and Ince left, Ince to a storm of protest in Manchester.

"I let him go to let everyone know I wouldn't accept failure," Ferguson said. "I was angry at losing the Cup Final. I was angry at losing the League, although not so much as the Cup. I said to the players in the dressing-room 'Some of you let us down, and some of you let yourselves down', and I wasn't prepared to accept it. There had been a lot of talk about Paul going to Italy, much of it coming from Paul, so I thought, 'let's put it to the test'."

So Ince went in came the young players, and another double was won. Now, the future beckons. "The way the club is structured, with the ages of the players, with the lengths of contracts, and with the next layers in place, it's very, very healthy for the next six or seven years," he said.

Doubtless to the dismay of their enemies, Ferguson intends to be around to see that prediction come true.

Cambridge lose out in tussle for Taylor

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOMMY TAYLOR was, briefly at least, the most sought-after manager in football yesterday, resigning from the post at Cambridge United to take over at their Nationwide League third division rivals, Leyton Orient. Despite a late attempt to keep him at Abbey Stadium, Taylor accepted a two-year contract with the struggling London club after talks with the chairman, Barry Hearn.

Taylor, who has steered Cambridge to second place in the third division, rejected a late bid to keep him at the club with an improved offer of an 18-month contract, instead of the existing deal until summer 1997.

"It came too late," he said. "I would have accepted the offer if they had made it a week ago, because I didn't want to leave, but it only came as a panic measure after they heard what I had been offered at Orient."

Brighton's future was thrown into further doubt yesterday when the Football League stepped in to prevent the club from sharing a stadium with any other league club. Brighton must leave their home of 94 years, the Goldstone Ground, in six months after selling the site to developers, but plans to groundshare with Portsmouth, Gillingham, Fulham or two other London clubs have now been ended.

David Dent, the Football League secretary, told clubs in the first, second and third divisions not to negotiate with Brighton unless solid proof of an intention to move back to the town is given to the authorities.

Clark awaits offers for indifferent Roy

BY RICHARD HOBSON

BRYAN ROY, the Holland international striker, has been told he can leave Nottingham Forest if Frank Clark, the manager, receives an offer of around £2 million.

Clark was not formally placed Roy, 27, on the transfer list, but he has clearly lost patience with the player's inability to reproduce the form he showed in his first season at the City Ground after moving from the Italian club, Foggia, after the 1994 World Cup. Although Roy's contract does not expire for two years, Clark says that Forest cannot afford for him to become a free agent.

Roy has failed to score in eight FA Carling Premiership appearances this season, five of them as a substitute. Clark is understood to be unhappy at the player's level of commitment. With Kevin Campbell expected to regain fitness by the time Forest resume their FA Carling Premiership programme against Sheffield Wednesday on November 13, Roy's opportunities are likely to become even fewer.

"It is a big disappointment that it should come to this," Clark said. "His form has been poor for some time and although I have had several meetings with him, I do not seem to be able to get through to him. I have asked him if he is unhappy at the club, but he insists there are no problems."

Derby County have failed in their attempt to secure Paulo Alves, the Portugal international, for the rest of the season. Jim Smith, the manager, was originally alerted to Alves's availability by the striker's club, Sporting Lisbon, at the start of the season, but balked at an asking price of close to £1.5 million.

Derby were then told that they could have Alves on loan

until the end of the campaign for £200,000, only for Sporting to change their mind again by the time that Smith made fresh contact. "This time the deal is dead," Smith said.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, is putting a brave face on the injuries which have weakened his squad leading up to the World Cup qualifying match against Holland on Saturday. Gould knew he was going to be without Mark Hughes, whose booking in the 3-1 defeat against the Dutch in Cardiff last month earned him a one-match ban.

Since announcing his squad for the return in Eindhoven, Ryan Giggs, Nathan Blake and Barry Horne, the captain, have also been ruled out by injuries. Giggs was suspended for the Cardiff match and misses out this time because of a calf strain that has seen him miss Manchester United's last six games. Blake has suffered a recurrence of ankle trouble and Horne has pulled out of the squad with a hamstring strain.

Attempting to gain revenge against a Dutch side strengthened by the return from injury of Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars and Michael Reiziger would have proved a difficult task even without losing key players. Gould, however, remains philosophical. "It's disappointing but we'll just have to grin and bear it," he said yesterday, before the Wales squad flew out to Holland.

Gould has called up Jason Bowen, of Birmingham, Lee Jones, of Liverpool, and Marcus Browning, of Bristol Rovers. Vinnie Jones, of Wimbledon, looks ideally suited to fill Horne's midfield role and Neville Southall, 36, the Everton goalkeeper, is a strong candidate to take over as captain.



Ferguson: focused on European Cup bid

THE TEN YEARS

League: 11th	1986-87
League: runners-up	1987-88
League: 11th	1988-89
League: 13th	1989-90
League: 12th	1990-91
League: 12th	1991-92
League: runners-up	1992-93
League: champions	1993-94
League: runners-up	1994-95
League: runners-up	1995-96
League: runners-up	1996-97



Schmeichel has lost much more than the odd match

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Oliver Holt on the move that rekindled The Great One's spirit

Big Apple proves Gretzky's saviour



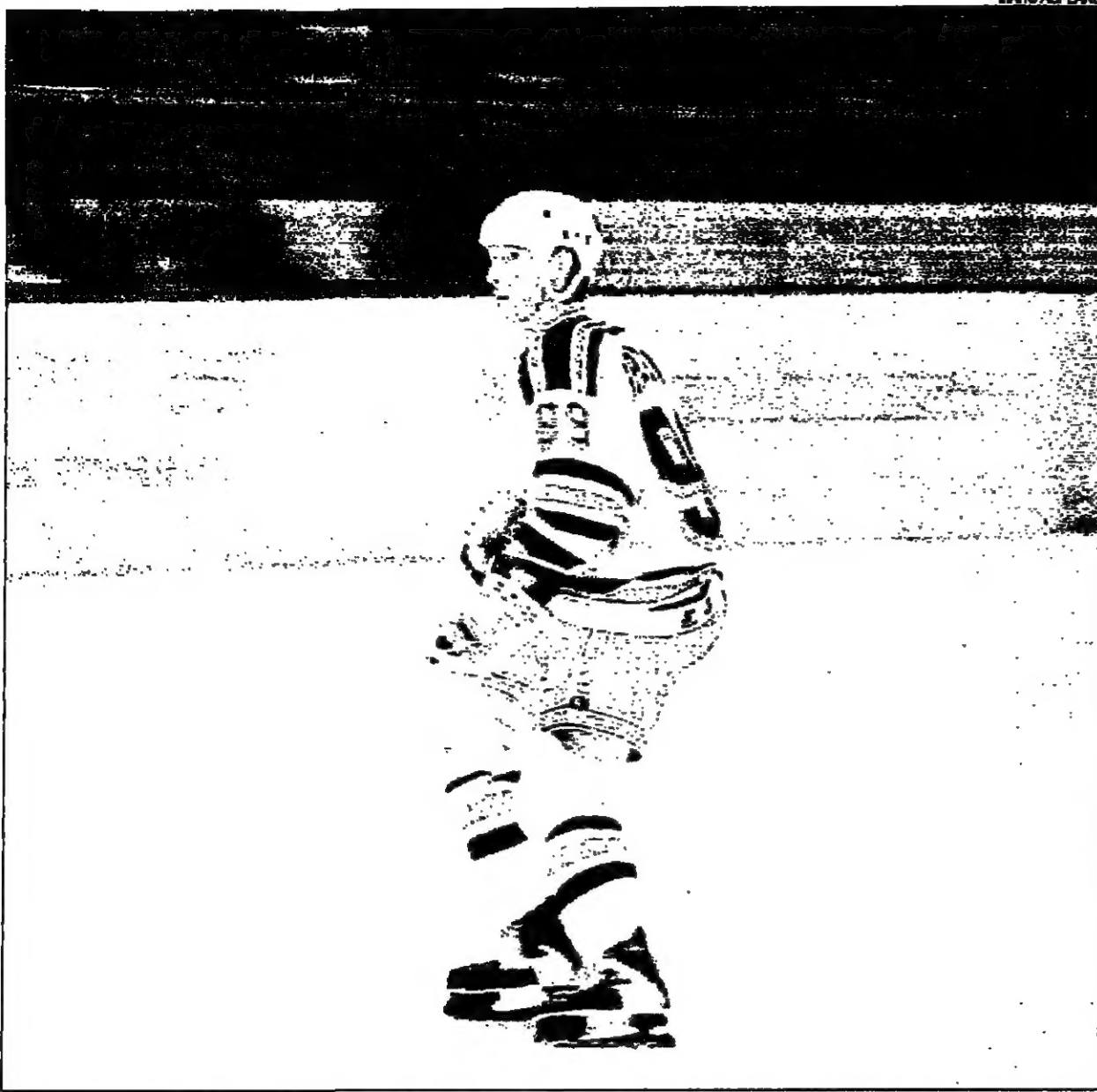
There are holes in the netting that surrounds the play-ground and pock-marks in the tarmac but the children who are playing roller hockey on the pitch in the middle of Greenwich Village stand out like blocks of colour in a black and white movie. It is their new shirts, New York Rangers shirts, that glow amid the greyness. All have the word "Gretzky" and the number 99 written on the back.

Thirty blocks to the north, where Broadway meets 42nd Street, the face of the greatest ice hockey player the world has ever seen beams down at the chaos of yellow cabs and blaring horns from its vantage point above the All-Star Cafe he owns with a clique of American sporting superstars that includes Shaquille O'Neal and Andre Agassi.

His image stares out from the front covers of magazines at news-stands on every street corner, his name flickers across the digital advertising hoardings at Madison Square Garden where the Rangers, who won the sport's top prize, the Stanley Cup, in 1994 after a 50-year drought, play their home games. After three years when he seemed to be slowly slipping out of the limelight, Wayne Gretzky is back in the big time.

Forget the fact that he is nearly 36, that the doubters said years of playing with mediocre team-mates at the Los Angeles Kings and, briefly, the St Louis Blues, had sapped his desire and his strength. This season, the man who is known across North America as The Great One, the man who is regarded as royalty in his native Canada, has failed to score a goal or an assist in only one of Rangers' 10 games.

On Monday night, he extended his streak for his new



Despite defeat by Tampa, Gretzky's sublime talent has brought crowds flocking to Madison Square Garden

team to 15, already the fourth longest in the club's history, with a sublime piece of control and delicate pass to set up Rangers' first goal against Tampa Bay Lightning at the Garden. The assist was enough to lift him to second place in the National Hockey League's (NHL) leading scorers this season.

Despite a lacklustre 5-3 defeat against the Lightning, Gretzky's heroics, which have prompted headlines such as "Number 99 to the Rescue" in the *New York Post*, have lifted the Rangers to second spot in

the NHL's Atlantic division. He had a quiet game by his own standards on Monday night but the grace and skill he displayed gave the home supporters rich consolation as they streamed towards the subway.

Apart from his assist, which drew gasps from the crowd in the vaudeville atmosphere, Gretzky took everyone's breath away with one bold move in the second period, skating from behind the Lightning net in a short arc, bypassing three defenders in a

trice, before seeing his back-

handed shot saved by the goaltender.

On another occasion, he hurried down the right wing before a spray of ice signalled a swift move inside that wrong-footed the defenseman and opened up space for another shot that brought the best out of the Tampa goaltender. His finesse and touch still mark him out in a sport increasingly dominated by power and brute force.

He is not the player he was but, then, nobody is the player that Gretzky was and nobody ever will be. Nine times he has

won the trophy for the NHL's Most Valuable Player.

He has been the league's leading scorer ten times, seven of them in successive seasons. He holds the all-time records for most goals, most assists, most points. No one else has come within a country mile of him.

More than that, his sports-manship and his delicacy made ice hockey accessible and attractive to a whole new audience previously alienated by a culture of fighting and heavy checking. The Lightning general manager, Phil

Esposito, spent much of the aftermath of Monday's match crediting an exhibition appearance by Gretzky in Tampa six years ago as creating the enthusiasm for the creation of the franchise in the Florida city.

Even if Gretzky cannot recapture highs that were the hallmark of his career, the move to New York seems to have rejuvenated him, given him the chance at least to shoot for the scoring titles again when it seemed that he was about to be consigned to the ranks of the also-rans. He is talking about playing on for several more years now but on Monday, he admitted that it was New York, a place that has proved the ruin of so many that had been his salvation.

"I don't think there's an athlete in the world that plays at the top of their game who has not had a problem with their confidence level at some point," Gretzky said. "Probably, when I came here, I was nervous. If you hear it enough and see it enough, that people don't think you can play, subconsciously you may start to believe it."

"Fortunately for me, I had strong people around me like Mike Messier that really believed in me. Both on and off the ice, he has been a great help to me. He kind of guided me because I was a lost soul before I got here. Sometimes, you play out of the motivation of fear. You don't want to fail. You don't want to embarrass yourself."

"But it's different here. The people were nice in LA but they have been tremendous here. The energy level is higher here. My wife asked me the other day how much longer I was going to play and I don't know."

"All I know is that I am just loving playing again now. I love everything about it. I love being in practice. I love being on the bus with the guys. I really and truly love everything about the game right now. It's a pleasure to be here."

The unsung hero and the superstar: Ewing and the Knicks face Shaquille O'Neal

TOLEDO

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Vauxhall Conference

Abingdon v Southport (7.45)

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First-round replay: Walsley v Spalding; Farnham v St Albans (8.00)

DR MARTENS CUP: First round, second leg: Farnham (1) v Weymouth (4); Havant (5) v Newport (6); St Leonards (7) v Havant (8)

ICIS LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: Second round: Havant v Enfield; Wotton v Heston v Grays (7.45); Chesham v Thame United

UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Knowsley v Barrow Bridge; Windward v Colwyn Bay First division: Droylsden v Congleton; Lincoln United v Farnley Celtic

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bourneham v Noveon (2.0); Brighton v Milver (2.0); Basset Basset v Wottonville (at Yale Town); Cardiff v Queens Park Rangers (2.0); Ipswich v West Ham (at Bury St Edmunds); 7.15: Luton v Tottenham (4.0); Oxford United v Swindon

Southern Union v Wotton (at Staplewood); Marchwood v Swansea v Portsmouth (2.0)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Baffin v Stoke (7.0); Leeds v Nottingham Forest; at Halifax: Town FC v. Tarnmore v Liverpool (7.0) First division: Baffin v Stoke (7.0); Leeds v Nottingham Forest; at Halifax: Town FC v. Tarnmore v Liverpool (7.0)

Port Vale v West Bromwich (7.0); Preston v Coventry (7.0) Second division: Hull v Burnley (7.0); Stockport v Wrexham (8.45); York v Rotherham (7.0) Third division: Bury v Southport (7.0); Chester v Rotherham (7.0); Lincoln v Scarborough (7.0) Wigan v Darlington (7.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Rhyl (7.45); Carmarthen Town v Llanelli; Caerdydd v Ton Pentre; Gabeau v. Trefnant; First Town v Connors Bay; Haywood v Conwy; Porthmadog v Rhyl

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Consett v Chester-le-Street; Durham v Guisborough

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Altrincham v Colwyn Bay; Chester-le-Street v Colwyn Bay; Chester-le-Street v Colwyn Bay

SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Dundee v. Dundee; Dundee v. Dundee

NETBALL: International match: England v. New Zealand; at Milton Keynes, Manchester, 7.15

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: London v. Verona (8.00) YUP Trophy: Crystal Palace v Berrington (8.00); Newcastle v. Walsley

ICE HOCKEY: European League: Berlin v. Mannheim; Superleague: Nottingham v. Nottingham

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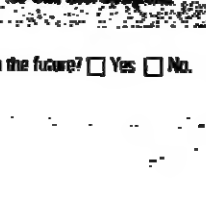
NETBALL: International match: England v. New Zealand; at Milton Keynes, Manchester, 7.15

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

FUSKIN

(a) A trident or three-pronged spear. From the Latin *fusca*. "A one-eyed Neptune with his Tridented Fuskine."

GADIAN

(d) A fish belonging to the family Gadidae, of which the typical genus is *Gadus* (cod). From the Greek *gadis* a codfish, "a living found on the Cretan coast, a gadian which accords with the wish of the ancients."

GADLING

(a) One of the small spikes of metal affixed to the knuckles of a gauntlet. From *gad* a sharp spike. "The backs of the leathern gauntlets were also furnished with overlapping plates, and the knuckles armed with knots of iron, called gads or gadlings."

GALLEIN

(d) A brown-red powder, or small green crystals, obtained by heating pyrogallol and phthalic anhydride. Used as a dye. "Double, double, toil and trouble, boiler steam and gallein bubble."

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Over-revving the engine on a leisurely drive

In less than a minute last night it became clear that *When Rover Met BMW* (BBC2) was a series in danger of trying too hard. By itself, the title was perfectly defensible, a harmless little play on a film title that might pull in a few hundred thousand more viewers than, say, *How BMW Took Over Rover*, or *Look BMW, See Rover*, come to that.

But then came the title of this opening instalment, *Don't Mention the War*, a harmless little play on that endlessly repeated episode of *Fawlty Towers*. What next, I wondered, harmless little plays on Kenneth Wolstenholme's "Some people are on the pitch..." (there's a quiz show in there somewhere) or Barry Davis' "Where were the Germans..." but frankly, you care? I don't know about you but as *It Had to Be You* plunk-plunked away in the background, I felt *Conan* in *Conan* coming on.

In the end though, it wasn't that bad — and if that sounds like faint praise, fine. No matter how much its makers might like it to be, what *When Rover Met BMW* definitely is not another *The House*. At the Royal Opera House you were left with the impression that the director had just pointed the cameras and let those preposterous people get on with it. At *Rover*, you get the feeling Jill Nichols and her team have had to work an awful lot harder to come up with the necessary mix of drama, character and humour that this demanding style of film-making requires.

On the evidence of this first outing, they may have worked too hard. Several times last night there was a vague feeling that events had been set up for the cameras, that some of the minor drama had been contrived. As for humour, it seemed that anyone who cracked a joke was more or less guaranteed

their 15 seconds of video fame. I did, however, like the man in charge of preparing the test cars for a press launch in Genoa, who solemnly informed his operatives that if they put a "i" and an "o" at the end of everything they said, they would get by in Italian. That just leaves character, doesn't it? Well maybe we'll get one in episode two.

The press launch itself had a certain inescapable appeal. The man from *The Sunday Telegraph* forgot his passport. *The Mail on Sunday* complained about the quality of the in-flight white wine and *Top Gear* banged on about "the pulling power" of the Rover 200 as only *Top Gear* can. Our man, you will be pleased to know — barring a curious and unexplained episode described as "a snooker" — behaved himself and said only nice things about the car. Kevin Eason will



most definitely be asked back. Perhaps it should have finished there, with the motoring corrs staggering back to the airport weighed down by complementary Gucci wallets. But instead we had to endure a good ten minutes about some buffer lunch that Rover's new German chairman never got round to eating. The subsequent episodes of *WRMB*, I am sure, will be all the bet-

ter for being 20 minutes shorter. The subsequent episode (thankfully, there is only one more) of *Animal Cannibals* (Channel 4) is every bit as long and, I dare say, will be every bit as gory as last night's stomach and mind-churning opener. Next week, it's animals that eat their siblings. Last night it was animals that only have the stomach for distant cousins. But that's cannibalism for you — purely relative.

We began, conventionally enough, with a zebra getting it in the neck from a lion. Fair enough, the zebra always gets it in the neck in wildlife films, that's the whole point of zebras. But we ended — oh my paws and whiskers — with wide-eyed, fluffy lion cubs being brutally dispatched by an incoming adult male lion and then being eaten. Any cats watching would have had more fun going to a Guy Fawkes party.

Now, we all know a little about

animal cannibalism — rabbits, praying mantis, black widow spiders. But what this New Zealand-made film had done — no doubt cannibalising other people's footage in the process — was to bring the whole grisly concept together in one place, combining truly ghastly examples from all parts of the animal kingdom. What the female redback spider does to her mate does not bear repeating, or certainly not in a family newspaper. Suffice it to say, if I were a male redback spider I'd be hanging on to my droopy palps big-time.

Peter Hayden's excellent script managed to incorporate some serious science into the mayhem and was delivered by Jeffrey Thomas with just the right mix of menace and humour. The editing also mixed it up well, keeping you guessing as to what omphagous outrage would

be popping up — or rather in — next. One minute it was the never more appropriately named wide-mouthed frogs of Argentina, the next it was chimpanzees settling down for a serve-in-the-skull snack of smaller cousins' brains. And have I told you about the baby bears? Trust me, you don't want to know.

Finally, fortune smiled upon London's Royal Court Theatre. Not only has it received a £10 million lottery grant to rebuild its ageing premises in Sloane Square, last night *Ornithos: Royal Court Diaries* (BBC1) was on hand to record its progress. This proved to be an enjoyable if intimate little affair, with the camera revealing halfway through that Alan Yentob, erstwhile Controller of BBC1, is on the theatre's board, and the credits revealing that Stephen Daldry, the theatre's artistic director, had produced the film as well as narrated it. Hey-ho.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Modern Times: The Selling Game
BBC2, 9.00pm

Keith Skelton and Lady Pigeon are antique dealers, but otherwise inhabit very different worlds. He is a streetwise Londoner who started selling from the back of a car. His philosophy, which he ascribes to Baroness Thatcher, is that you can't buck the market. This means giving people what they want. He reckons the old furniture looks more appealing with a naked woman draped over it. Lady Pigeon would probably be horrified. She operates out of a big house near Hereford. Her motto is that some things cost a lot but nothing's expensive. It depends what you mean by expensive. Her clients, who include a self-made tyre salesman and the singer Roger Whittaker, are clearly not short of the odd few thousand. A canny Yorkshire dealer completes the cast of John Alexander's sprightly documentary.

An Evening With Lily Savage
ITV, 9.00pm

Celebrities from Clive James to J.R. Hartley pack the audience as Paul O'Grady's *Mersey* drag queen makes her prime-time bow. The result is a more sustained version of Lily Savage than you might have seen late at night on Channel 4, though vulgarity is by no means eschewed. Hardly has the show been launched by the high-kicking Tiller Girls than we are into jokes about HKT and colour irrigation. Essentially this is a stand-up routine punctuated by questions from the sold celebrities. How much of Lily's patter is off the cuff is difficult to determine, but she is never stuck for something to say and there is not a straight face in the house. For the viewer, home Lily's earthy style will be a matter of taste. One thing is sure: she does a hopeless Marlene Dietrich.

Absolutely Fabulous Special:
The Last Show
BBC1, 9.30pm

Fans may be disappointed that there are to be no more series of *Ab Fab* but this one-off, spread over two successive nights and lasting a total of 60 minutes, will be some compensation. At least it is in quantity. As for quality, nobody will know until transmission. This is because the programme-makers have decided, in the interests of surprise, not to issue preview tapes. The question must be whether a show which perfectly fits the sitcom half-hour can be successfully stretched. The presence of so many guest stars among them Dora Bryan, Helen Lederer and Marianne Faithfull suggests a hefty insurance policy. Forgive, Patsy (Joanna Lumley) and Edina (Jennifer Saunders) are off to the stid slopes while Sally (Julie Sawalha) contemplates marriage.

The Frigate Heart
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Paula Milne's drama stars Nigel Hawthorne, looking very old and very troubled as an eminent heart surgeon who is cracking up. His problems are on all fronts, professional as well as personal. He incurs the wrath of a widow after a patient dies under his knife and faces an inquiry by the General Medical Council. In his domestic life he is distanced from his wife (Deborah Mollay), a country GP who is toying with alternative medicine, and on fragile terms with his twin children. As if this were not enough, he is about to head a medical delegation to China which will land him in even more of a mess. As she showed in *The Politician's Wife*, Milne is a superb storyteller who knows how to turn up the emotional temperature. *The Frigate Heart* may get overrated at times but it will be very difficult to switch off. Peter Waymark

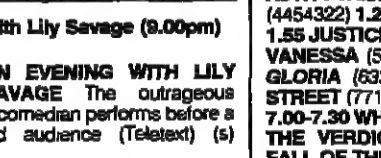
SATellite and Cable



Peter Sellers, Sophia Loren in *The Millionaire* (Gold, 6.35pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (1107457)
- 9.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (Teletext) (s) (128709)
- 9.55 REGIONAL NEWS (2536308)
- 10.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE (s) (24780)
- 10.30 THIS MORNING (24537612)
- 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (4303761)
- 12.30 NEWS (Teletext) and weather (4478631)
- 12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (s) (4454322)
- 1.25 CORONATION STREET (s) (Teletext) (7350983) 2.00 HOME AND AWAY (Teletext) (s) (5752322) 2.25 CROSS WITS (Teletext) (s) (5752318)
- 2.50 VANESSA (Teletext) (s) (532457)
- 3.20 NEWS (Teletext) (4437525)
- 3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (4436898)
- 3.30 TOTS TV CLASSICS (3948185) 3.40 THE PARKIES (7876148) 3.50 ZAZZAI (6666663) 4.10 THE TWISTED TALES OF FELIX THE CAT (594544) 4.20 FANTOMCAT (5062505) 4.45 IT'S A MYSTERY (1236531)
- 5.10 WHEEL OF FORTUNE Quiz hosted by Nicky Campbell (s) (7714341)
- 5.40 NEWS (Teletext) and weather (385419)
- 6.00 HOME AND AWAY (s) (Teletext) (s) (58341)
- 6.25 HTV NEWS (Teletext) (846524)
- 7.00 SPORTSWEEK (9677)
- 7.30 CORONATION STREET Tracy arrives with some unexpected news for Ken and Deirdre (Teletext) (815)
- 8.00 IN THE WILD: The Galapagos Mystery Actor Richard Dwyer sails to the Galapagos to investigate the island's mysterious wildlife (Teletext) (s) (8877)



Humour with Lily Savage (9.00pm)

- 9.00 AN EVENING WITH LILY SAVAGE The outrageous Liverpool comedian performs before a celebrity-filled audience (Teletext) (s) (9341)
- 10.00 NEWS (Teletext) and weather (38625)
- 10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (159457)
- 10.40 SOME GOOD DAYS Moving film on-the-wall documentary of an average day in the life of the Little Bridge House hospice for children in the West Country (555896)
- 11.10 TROPICAL HEAT Drama about a former drug enforcement officer turned private eye (725780)
- 12.10pm SHORT STORY CINEMA: The Jogger A casual run turns into a life-threatening race when a jogger is stalked by a stranger (4162552)
- 12.40 REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL (739303)
- 1.10 GOSSIP (778975)
- 2.10 CYBER.CAFE (2282200)
- 2.40 DEAR NICK (233073)
- 3.40 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (s) (749725)
- 4.20 SOUND BITES (7554222)
- 4.30 THE TIME... THE PLACE (s) (83216)
- 5.00 DUTY FREE (s) (35591)
- 5.30 NEWS (53200)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (4454322)
- 1.25 CROSS WITS (39010322)
- 1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (24598709)
- 2.20 VANESSA (57513148)
- 2.50-3.20 OUR HOUSE (8332457)
- 5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7714341)
- 6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (846524)
- 7.00-7.30 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (9677)
- 10.40 Film: IMPULSE (8666254)
- 12.40pm BUSHELL ON THE BOX (779820)
- 1.15 GUS'S GIFT (338484)
- 2.15 DEAR NICK (2065552)
- 3.10 IN FOCUS (724068)

WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55 CORONATION STREET (4454322)
- 1.25 CROSS WITS (39010322)
- 1.55 HOME AND AWAY (25284983)
- 2.25 VANESSA (57513148)
- 2.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1770273)
- 5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7714341)
- 6.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (74186)
- 7.00-7.30 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (9677)
- 10.40 Film: DELIVERANCE (8666254)

MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55 CROSS WITS (4454322)
- 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39010322)
- 1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24598709) 2.20 VANESSA (57513148) 2.50-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (8332457) 3.10-3.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7714341) 3.50-4.20 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (9677) 10.40 THE VERDICT (555896) 11.10 Film: THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER (234896)

ANGLIA

- As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WITS (4454322) 1.25 HOME AND AWAY (39010322) 1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (24598709) 2.20 VANESSA (57513148) 2.50-3.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (8332457) 3.10-3.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7714341) 3.50-4.20 WHEEL OF FORTUNE (9677) 10.40 THE VERDICT (555896) 11.10 Film: THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER (234896)

S4C

- Starts: 6.30am TAKE FIVE (31070) 7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (69341) 9.00 HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (49902) 9.30 YGOLION (784273) 10.20 HOUSE TO HOUSE (36438) 12.30pm THE CRICKET (64709) 1.00 SLOTT MERRITH (73728) 1.30 Film: THE FALLEN IDOL (30153728) 3.15 THE MONTELL WILLIAMS SHOW (6329070) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (544) 4.30 ANTON MOSIMANN — NATURALLY (726) 5.00 5 PUMP (4483) 5.30 COUNTRYDOWN (780) 6.00 NEWYDDION (757274) 6.05 HEND (64119) 6.35 JACPOIT (820506) 7.00 POBOL Y CWYM (136051) 7.25 DYLYN CWYSS (301254) 8.00 GWYN A/I PYD (8167) 8.30 NEWYDDION (8902) 9.00 WANTED (7963) 10.00 BROOKSIDE (37167) 10.30 CUTTING EDGE (37167) 11.00 CAROLINE IN THE CITY (110457) 12.05am HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET (3882674) 1.05 FOUR-MATIONS: CONTINENTAL PASSIONS (4502194)

UK GOLD

- 7.00am Going to Gold (200351) 7.35 Crooked Hearts (69396) 8.00 Neighbours (263273) 8.25 EastEnders (2571438) 9.00 The Bill (131631) 9.30 Big Deal (751969) 10.30 The Suburbs (131415) 11.00 Juliet Bravo (252790) 12.00 Crossroads (333478) 12.25pm Neighbours (69396) 12.55 EastEnders (2571438) 1.30 Rose (617373) 2.10 A Little Bit of Dawson (301709) 2.25 Up the Elephant and Round the Castle (577457) 3.00 Sale of the Century (242254) 3.30 The Bill (690462) 4.00 Casualty (845032) 5.00 EastEnders (1147254) 5.35 Crossroads (333478) 6.00 Eddies and Middles (69396) 6.30 The Bill (690462) 7.00 The Bill (690462) 7.30 The Bill (690462) 8.00 The Bill (690462) 8.30 The Bill (690462) 9.00 The Bill (690462) 9.30 The Bill (690462) 10.00 The Bill (690462) 10.30 The Bill (690462) 11.00 The Bill (690462) 11.30 The Bill (690462) 12.00 The Bill (690462) 12.30 The Bill (690462) 1.00 The Bill (690462) 1.30 The Bill (690462) 2.00 The Bill (690462) 2.30 The Bill (690462) 3.00 The Bill (690462) 3.30 The Bill 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RACING 43

European challenge
fizzles out
in Melbourne

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6 1996

CRICKET 45

Reeve seeks
to spark
Somerset revival



New captain signals change of emphasis as predecessor faces uncertain future

England hand de Glanville leading role

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LIFE changed for Philip de Glanville at three o'clock on Monday afternoon, when he received the telephone call telling him that he was the England rugby union captain. Once upon a time, the job would have created barely a ripple outside the sport; now, his elevation is greeted with a fanfare of trumpets and the bright lights of press and television cameras.

The decision on the man to succeed Will Carling was taken by Jack Rowell, the coach, and his management panel two months ago, but was only revealed yesterday. De Glanville, 28, and captain of Bath last season and this, will hold the position for the remainder of the season, though there is a clear implication that the usual yearly-renewal process will take him through to the 1999 World Cup.

Yet, there is every prospect that his new role will mean no place for Carling in the team to play Italy, which will be announced before training at Bisham Abbey this morning. Jeremy Guscott's form for Bath has been so overwhelmingly good that he is likely to play at centre alongside de Glanville — as they have done so frequently for their club — leaving Carling to contemplate life without international rugby.

"We have picked someone with leadership qualities, who has the respect of his players, who is good enough to hold his place with England going forward towards the World Cup," Rowell said at Twickenham. "We think he can take England onto the field, read the games and adjust according to what is happening, but also looking at playing the game we have seen increasingly in club rugby this season."

That has been the key to de

Glanville's selection — the liberation of England from the forward-dominated attitudes established in the late Eighties and early Nineties. "Playing in the centre was a factor in Phil's selection, given his background with regard to a 15-man style," Rowell said. Thus Jason Leonard, with Lawrence Dallaglio one of the other leading candidates for the role, would have suffered by playing in the front row, while Dallaglio's comparative inexperience at international level may have counted against him.

Although de Glanville has been part of the England squad for five years, he has never been integral to the side's development, his place always dependent upon injuries to Carling or Guscott. Of his 16 caps, seven have been as a replacement and his only full season came in 1993-94, when Guscott was suffering from a severe groin injury.

Rowell, when he was coach at Bath, has seen him grow in

stature in the "challenging environment" that has taken Bath to the top of the English tree and kept them there. Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, said: "People may have thought he was a nice but quiet young guy, but he has blossomed over the period he has been in charge. He has been an integral part of the tactical development we have made at a time when there is an air of change about the game, which I hope is reflected in the national side."

Guscott said: "I think that Lawrence [Dallaglio] will be disappointed because he cannot help himself sometimes from believing what he reads in the press, but we have an inside track in the England set-up, which includes coaches and advisers, and Phil's name was always up there from the start. He has certainly got the pedigree."

De Glanville has proved himself a gifted communicator, not only to the press and public but as a representative of the national squad in this past, difficult year when the players have found themselves as buffers in the dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc).

"It won't be an easy job, following Will," de Glanville said. "He has done fantastic things for English rugby, but now it's time for someone new to step in and make their mark on the game. I have been part of the squad for four or five years and, while it's been frustrating being on the bench, I know how things operate and it will be relatively easy to step in."

"Now the captaincy has been resolved, my task will be to pull the squad together for the game with Italy. We need to concentrate on playing rugby, so as soon as we can hammer out with the RFU and Epruc the precise details of arrangements for the England players, the better. We want a reconciliation as quickly as possible."

De Glanville is one of the players who has retained a business career, with Druid Systems in Chertsey, and both employer and employee hope that can be sustained. But the sporting and corporate demands on his time will be



De Glanville enjoys his first exchange with the media yesterday as his reign as England captain gets under way

Carling set to depart with grace and smile

By DAVID HANDS

GRACE under pressure is an enviable quality and Will Carling displayed it yesterday. His renunciation last March of the captaincy of the England team has almost certainly led to the end of a hugely distinguished international career, which has embraced three grand slams and a World Cup final.

"I'm delighted for Phil de Glanville," Carling said. "I have always said that he is, and will be, an excellent captain. I appreciate the obvious ramifications for me because there will only be one other centre choice beside the new captain. But it's now out of my hands, although I feel I'm playing OK."

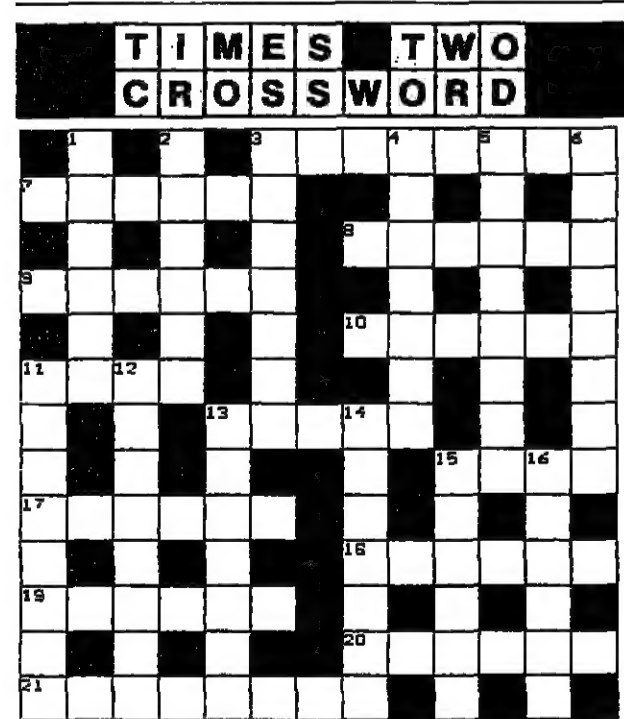
In truth, Carling, 30, will be devastated if he loses his place after 66 England appearances, though he will mask the disappointment with a wry smile. The cynical may suggest that the decision he made last season, to retire from the captaincy after a world-record 59 games, was a shrewd reading of the tea leaves, but he has always placed enormous value on playing for England.

Whether Carling honestly believed that he could enjoy an Indian summer in international rugby as one of the boys, rather than as captain, only he can say. His play for Harlequins this season has lacked nothing in commitment or quality, but the England management believed there to be a mind-set about the national team which could not be altered until key personnel — Carling and Dean Richards — had passed on.

If there is no place for Carling in today's team — and Jeremy Guscott's outstanding form for Bath suggests there will not — then the clean break should be made. No long hours spent among the replacements; that would be embarrassing for both parties and a pointless downgrading for Carling. He may care to remember those many talented players who chose to leave international rugby voluntarily and then produced outstanding rugby for their clubs to leave behind the lasting impression of a wonderful athlete and competitor. That Carling has been one such, there can be no doubt.

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Born: Oct 1, 1968, Loughborough.
Occupation: Marketing consultant.
Height: 5ft 11in.
Weight: 13st 8lb.
Education: Brynston School, Durham University, St Catherine's, Oxford.
Rugby record: 1988: Picked for England Students.
1989: Makes England B and Under-21 debuts.
1990: Joins Bath, wins Oxford Blue.
1992: First senior cap as replacement in victory over South Africa.
1993: Five nations debut, also as a replacement, against Wales. First full cap as England beat New Zealand 15-9 at Twickenham.
1994: Seven full internationals during Guscott's absence through injury.
1995: Captains Bath to Pilkington Cup success over Wasps when John Hall misses the final through injury.
1996: Captains England to group games in South Africa. Takes over as Bath captain in September.
1996: Leads Bath to league and cup double. Appointed England captain.



No 932

ACROSS

- 3 Programme of study (8)
- 7 Of a son, daughter (6)
- 8 Enclose (6)
- 9 Take place (6)
- 10 Am. Indian tent (6)
- 11 Prolonged personal quarrel (4)
- 13 Fetch (5)
- 15 Dirty jokes (4)
- 17 How wanly the lone knight loitered (K&A) (6)
- 18 Glass container (6)
- 19 Forswear (6)
- 20 Improve till head back (4,2)
- 21 Priest's-rule supporter (8)

DOWN

- 1 Lung, angry outburst (6)
- 2 Recommended; dumped (6)
- 3 Thin; woe; Anne Page (Merry Wives) (7)
- 4 Upstairs passage (7)
- 5 Avid reader (8)
- 6 Dregs (5)
- 11 Unserious (remark) (8)
- 12 Stalin (as wartime ally) (5,3)
- 13 Sword-belt (7)
- 14 Sir Henry — nautical balladeer (7)
- 15 Amusing TV series (6)
- 16 Two dots over German vowel (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 931

- ACROSS: 1 Stipulates 9 Bloomer 10 Cruel 11 Cade
12 Lapse 13 Cinnap 14 Warmth 17 Empty 19 Amends
21 Vernon 22 Cruise 23 Rue 24 Forestall
DOWN: 1 Gist 2 Verdier 3 Cob 4 Accept 5 Escalate
6 Group 7 Beech 11 Crazy golf 13 Cleaver 15 Madeira
16 Garter 18 Per se 20 Cell 22 Gas

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 927

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 1 Give chase 6 Gib 8 Scrub 9 Cyclops 10 Hiccup
12 Lapse 13 Cinnap 14 Warmth 17 Empty 19 Amends
21 Vernon 22 Cruise 23 Rue 24 Forestall
DOWN: 1 Gist 2 Verdier 3 Cob 4 Accept 5 Escalate
6 Group 7 Beech 11 Crazy golf 13 Cleaver 15 Madeira
16 Garter 18 Per se 20 Cell 22 Gas

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic or international network is C Miller, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLANDS domestic network is E. Pritchard, Hereford.
All flights subject to availability.

Coventry look to Strachan as Atkinson changes roles

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RON ATKINSON has stood down, or been stood down, as manager of Coventry City. He has moved, or been moved, to a position as director of football at Highfield Road. In keeping with a colourful career that has endured many highs and lows, Atkinson's short step upstairs yesterday was entwined with surprise and no little intrigue.

Atkinson, 57, was relieved of his duties on Monday night, shortly after Coventry had drawn 1-1 against Everton at Goodison Park. He had been scheduled to stand aside at the end of the season and to hand over the managerial reins to Gordon Strachan, but the move was brought forward abruptly.

Having spent £18 million in 21 months, and with Coventry eighteenth in the FA Carling Premiership, with only one win in 12 matches, perhaps it was time for a change. If the trend had continued, Strachan could have been making his managerial bow in the Nationwide League.

Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, stressed that the switch was a mutual decision. "Ron was not sacked," he said. "He approached me at the end of last week to discuss the idea of Gordon taking over the running of the team. All we've done is bring it forward."

"We think Gordon is ready

magnified, together with his input to team selection and his representation as captain of the players' interests. De Glanville's promise that his feet will remain firmly on the ground will not be easily kept. His team will play Italy in

the latest England jersey, which will carry a large logo advertising Cellnet. The RFU has agreed a one-year deal with the cellular telephone company, worth six figures, but the design is probably the least discreet of any of the

leading rugby nations; if the additional coloured stripes introduced five years ago proved less than popular with the public, this may provoke even greater criticism.

Path to riches, page 3

Lola returns to Formula One backed by Britain

By KEVIN EASON

LOLA will return to Formula One motor racing next year with an all-British car. The team will be virtually the only one in Formula One to have one-nation design and engineering capabilities, the chassis and engine coming from Lola and MCD respectively.

Ricardo Rosset, the Brazilian dropped this year by TWR Arrows for Damon Hill, could be one of the drivers if he can bring enough sponsorship money, while the second seat could go to either Ricardo Zonta, another Brazilian, or Tom Kristensen, a Dane.

While Lola has won the IndyCar series in the United States five times, its Formula One record has been patchy. Started in 1958 by Eric Broadley, the team ran cars for John Surtees and Roy Salvadori, coming fourth in the constructors' championship in 1962. Lola's last involvement with Formula One was in 1993, providing the chassis for the Scuderia Ferrari team.

MCD, which is designing the Lola V10 engines, is a tiny company headed by Al Mellor and based in Rochdale. Lola needs up to £10 million to start the 1997 season, which will come mainly from sponsorship by MasterCard International.



Atkinson: annoyed

Wright option, page 44

A MEASURE OF CHARACTER



Leading the national team requires more than just skill on the field - it is a real test of character. Teacher's Scotch Whisky are proud to be associated with Phil de Glanville and Bath Rugby. Congratulations Phil!



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